Stocks plummet in new bout of worldwide gloom

Story in Business, PAGE B1

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Critics don't want Gloria to have sex?

YOU make a crack like that and you're sure to draw sourpuss comments.

"Plenty of sex, very little work," huffed Sen. Panfilo Lacson in reference to President Macapagal-Ar-

CRITICS/ A18

Kidapawan blast kills 8, wounds 25

Police eye MILF, NPA, extortionists

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Last week it was Zamboanga City in Western Mindanao; yesterday it was Cotabato's capital in Central Mindanao.

A bomb ripped through a crowded bus station here on Thursday afternoon, killing at least eight people, including a 10-year-old boy, and wounding at least 25 others in what a military official described as a terrorist attack.

Officials said they expected the death toll to rise as most of the wounded victims rushed to the hospital were in critical condition.

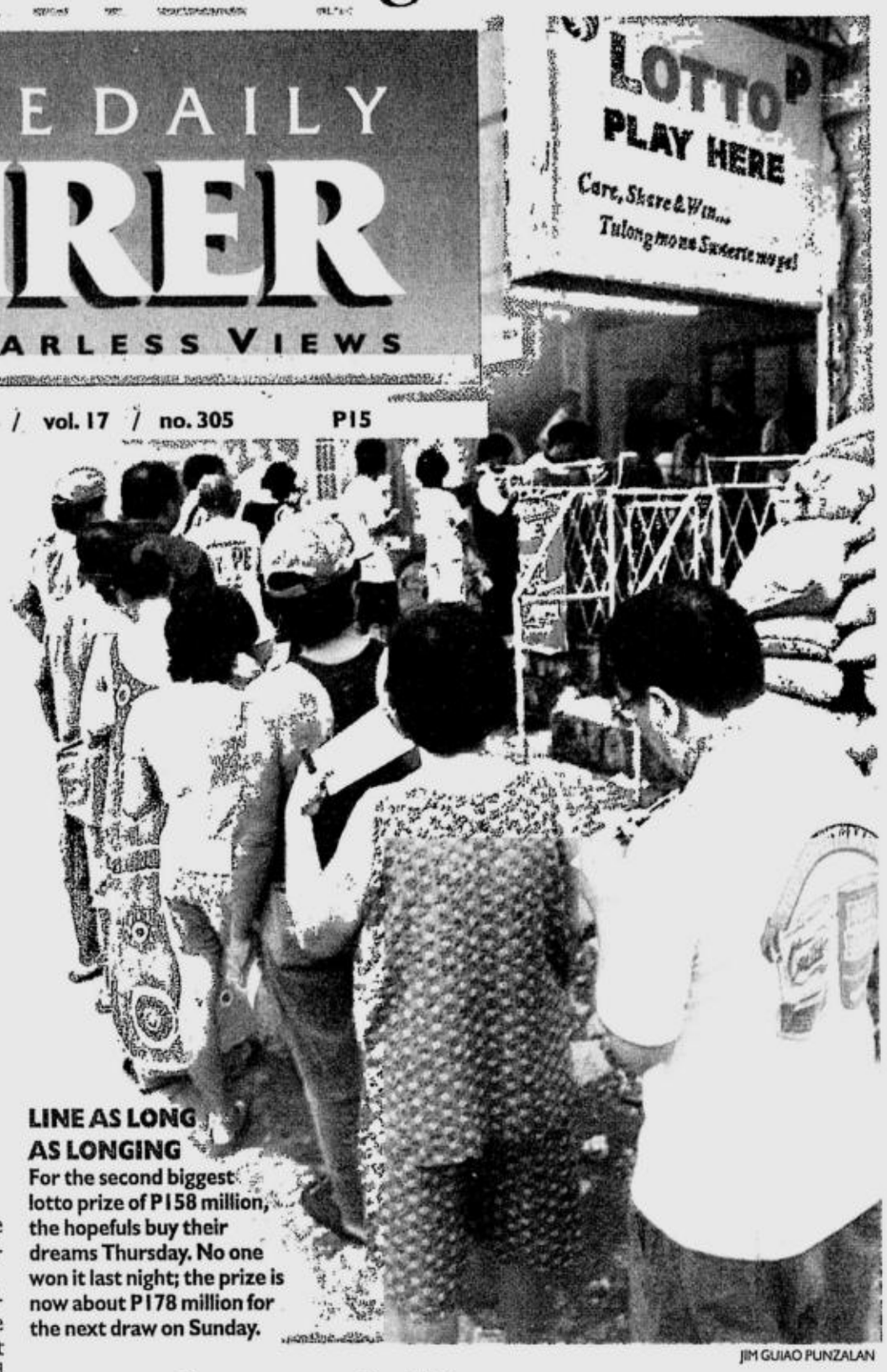
Supt. Casimiro Medes, police chief of Kidapawan City, said the "incendiary bomb" was placed under a concrete bench in a waiting shed at the terminal. But Rosalita Asam, one of those wounded, said the explosion occurred on the upper floor of the two-story terminal.

Most of the victims were market vendors and passengers milling around the waiting shed. Two parked buses and the ticketing booth were also damaged by what officials initially called a grenade attack.

T/Sgt. Felipe Mangiob of the military's 25th Explosives and Ordnance Team said the bomb was fashioned out of a 60-mm mortar shell and flammable fluid, most probably gasoline.

No one has claimed responsibility for the 2:45 p.m. blast, which came a week after a bomb in Zamboanga City killed four people, including an American Green Beret commando, and wounded

KIDAPAWAN/ A20



LINE AS LONG AS LONGING
For the second biggest lotto prize of P158 million, the hopefuls buy their dreams Thursday. No one won it last night; the prize is now about P178 million for the next draw on Sunday.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Meralco to bill customers 14¢ more per kWh a month

MANILA Electric Co. (Meralco) said yesterday that its customers would pay an additional 14 centavos per kilowatt-hour a month to reflect exchange rate weakness and higher oil prices.

Consumer groups called for renewed protests to oppose the increase. "We are going back to hold pickets in front of Meralco branches, would revive our 'lights out' campaigns in different communities within Meralco's service areas," said Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of the People Against Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power).

Early this year, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-led Power spearheaded 30-minute voluntary blackouts in different communities in Metro Manila and nearby cities to protest the collection of the "anomalous" purchased power adjustment (PPA).

Reyes said Power would also stage pickets and street rallies to denounce increases in the prices of petroleum products, including liquefied petroleum gas.

Meralco press officer Dina Lumotan said in an interview on local radio the extra charge would be reflected on billing statements starting this month. She was quick to add, however, that it was a pass-through cost and would not be retained by Meralco.

"We would like to inform the public that this extra charge will not go to Meralco. We are being affected by higher foreign exchange

MERALCO/ A18

Fruitful visit turns deadly

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Except for the scorching heat of summer, everything seemed normal in the city for Rosalita Asam, 35, who was looking forward to a safe journey home to Magsaysay town in Davao del Sur with three of her friends after visiting the city yesterday afternoon.

The city has enticed visitors like Asam for the past several months now because of its fruits like durian. And as it is October, sweet lanzones abound at bargain prices.

Vendors at the busy public terminal were looking forward to a fruitful day as usual because of the volume of passengers waiting for their rides.

The city serves as the gateway to the cities of Cotabato and Tacurong and to the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato and Bukidnon.

But at around 2:45 p.m., Asam, along with more than 30 others, became victims of terror.

FRUITFUL/ A20

Impeach-Erap lawyer new Ombudsman

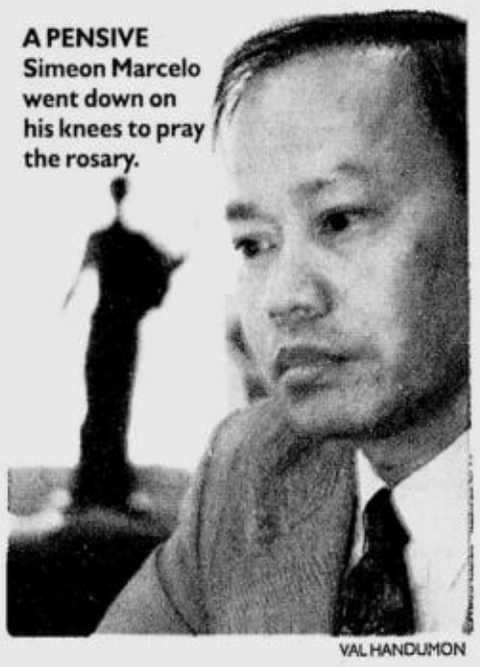
By Volt Contreras and Carlito Pablo

THE FIRST thing he did after hearing the news was go to the Don Bosco church in Makati City and pray the Rosary.

"I need a lot of prayers in this kind of job," said Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, hours after the President named him the country's new Ombudsman. Sources from within and outside Malacañang said the President will also likely name Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee as Marcelo's replacement.

Marcelo, 49, burst into national prominence when he served as a private prosecutor during the

IMPEACH-ERAP/ A19



A PENSIVE Simeon Marcelo went down on his knees to pray the rosary.

VAL HANDUMON

Labor chief accused of taking bribe

By Christine Avendaño and Blanche Rivera

A LABOR leader turned congressman accused Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas on Wednesday night of accepting a bribe from one of the country's biggest corporations, but Sto. Tomas furiously denied any wrongdoing.

In a privilege speech delivered in Filipino, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran charged that Nestle Philippines, currently embroiled in a labor dispute, had paid for part of a trip Sto. Tomas made to Switzerland in June. In the speech which he titled "Blood in Your Coffee," and then in a House resolution he filed afterwards, Beltran asked the House to investigate his allegations against Sto. Tomas, which he said "may constitute graft and corruption practices and (was) in blatant disrespect to the present labor dispute between Nestle ... and its workers."

Fifteen congressmen, including Beltran and his fellow Bayan Muna congressmen Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, supported H.R. 816, which called for a joint investigation by the House committees on labor and employ-

LABOR/ A18

Negotiation useless, says defense chief

By Martin P. Marfil, Carlito Pablo and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

IT'S useless to go back to the negotiating table.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes talked on television the other night of the futility of resuming peace talks with communist rebels as the New People's Army (NPA), military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), stepped up its attacks.

Three suspected members of the NPA gunned down an employee of Globe Telecom yesterday at a bakery in Guinobatan town in Albay, police said. Last week, the NPA burned Bayantel's relay station and the construction equipment of a private company, and raided police stations in rural areas.

The military is also stepping up its operations against the NPA. In Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur, soldiers overran two NPA camps without firing a single shot. The camp had barricades, running trenches, fortified outposts 20 bunkers that could house some 50 people.

The CPP said yesterday it would launch more attacks against the government in response to what it called President Macapagal-Arroyo's rejection of peace talks. Peace talks between the government and the communists collapsed last year after the NPA assassinated two legislators.

"Now that the administration has officially junked the resumption of the formal peace talks, there is no other option left for the NPA Red fighters across the

NEGOTIATION/ A20

'Dad, how did this happen?'

By Blanche S. Rivera and TJ Burgonio

"DAD, how did this happen?"

This was the question that an 11-year-old child of Mohammad Amin al Ghaffari, who is suspected by the Armed Forces of terrorist acts, supposedly posed to him—the same question that the Jordanian is grappling with as he continues to be detained at the Bureau of Immigration without charges.

But PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. confirmed what two police intelligence sources said Wednesday: that there is "no information" on which to charge al Ghaffari with involvement in any terrorist act in the Philippines.

"This is craziness," al Ghaffari, 36, lamented during an interview yesterday with the INQUIRER in the presence of legal counsel. "I have nothing to hide. I don't know where this is coming from. Hatred? Jealousy?"

DAD/ A20

GMA receives RP's first-ever 'hybrid' sedan

By Carlito Pablo

THE FIRST-EVER "hybrid" sedan in the country that runs on both electric and gasoline power was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

Toyota president Fujio Cho turned over the key of a light aqua environment-friendly Toyota Prius to President Macapagal when she visited the car firm's plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Valued at $20,000 including taxes, the Prius is available only in Japan, the United States and some parts of Europe.

GMA/ A18

REMEMBRANCE OF FLINGS PAST
The Marcos wardrobe—his and hers—are moved out of the Malacañang museum on Thursday to make way for a renovation of the museum to be relocated on the ground floor of the Kalayaan Hall. They will be turned over to the PCGG. Also with the PCGG since last year is the fabled shoe collection of Imelda Marcos. The new museum will reportedly feature a photo gallery and memorabilia of previous Palace occupants. It will also showcase the book collection of the Macapagals, father and daughter.

ERIK ARAZAS

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/11/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

Mark Jimenez appeals to SC

By Michael Lim Ubac

SAYING he did not pose a flight risk, Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez yesterday sought a reconsideration of a Supreme Court ruling canceling the P1-million bail he posted with the Extradition Court.

In filing a 51-page motion for reconsideration, Jimenez beat the 15-day deadline set by law for him to contest the Sept. 24 adverse ruling of the high tribunal.

The motion was filed by Jimenez's lawyers Mario Bautista, Dino Vivencio Tamayo and Brigitte Da Costa.

Jimenez, a former ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, claimed that the SC ruling that bail was not a matter of right in Philippine extradition cases "is contrary to law and prevailing jurisprudence."

He maintained that the acts of the Extradition Court granting him bail last year, "reversed by a divided court on the slimmest of majorities," were at most "fairly debatable."

"Such acts should not be disturbed, and be allowed to stand," he said.

With a vote of eight justices, the high court on Sept. 24 revoked Jimenez's bail, clearing all legal obstacles for his eventual arrest.

The DOJ, however, was barred from arresting him after the Extradition Court refused to issue a warrant for Jimenez's arrest pending the finality of the decision.

Three justices dissented from the majority decision, while another three justices voted to remand the case to the Manila Regional Trial Court, which served as Extradition Court in the case.

Extradition court

Jimenez, Mario Crespo in real life, posted the bail for his temporary liberty while the Extradition Court was hearing the extradition case lodged against him by the United States, through the Philippines' Department of Justice.

The US had asked the DOJ to extradite Jimenez, who had been charged with two counts of conspiracy to defraud the government, four counts of tax evasion in the amount of $3.5 million (P175 million), two counts of wire fraud, six counts of false statements and 33 counts of illegal campaign contribution to the Democratic Party.

The charges, allegedly committed between September 1994 to March 1998, were filed with the US District Court for South Florida.

The DOJ had elevated the case to the high court after the Extradition Court issued on July 3, 2001 an order allowing Jimenez to post bail.

Jimenez, in asking the court to reconsider its adverse ruling, pleaded with the high court to apply the basic principles of certiorari.

He said that since Manila RTC Judge Branch 42 Presiding Judge Guillermo Purganan did not commit grave abuse of discretion in the case, the SC erred in granting the DOJ's petition for certiorari.

"The procedures for arrest and bail in extradition laid down by the majority of this honorable court in the decision were not yet spelled out when the extradition court issued its assailed orders," he said.

"If the extradition court supposedly did not follow those not yet existing procedures, how could the extradition court have committed grave abuse?" he added.

Jimenez said he was entitled to bail because, he said, he did not even meet the US definition of a fugitive from justice that "the accused concealed himself with the intent to avoid arrest or prosecution."

"The essential characteristic of fleeing from justice is leaving one's residence, or usual place of abode or resort, or concealing one's self, with the intent to avoid punishment," he said.

On the contrary, Jimenez said, he was a public figure whose activities were being widely reported by the media.

No price controls —Palace

ALTHOUGH "concerned" about the rising prices of basic commodities, Malacañang has refused to impose price controls.

Instead, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Trade Secretary Mar Roxas to closely monitor prices in the public markets.

Some militant groups had urged Malacañang to impose price ceilings on basic commodities, as traders began to take advantage of the latest hikes in gasoline and liquid petroleum gas prices.

"Maybe not a price ceiling, but what the President wants is a close monitoring of prices," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Bunye was told the price of pan de sal would go up from P1 to P1.50 each.

SCHILLING

Ex-hostage returns for captors' trial

AN AMERICAN who was held hostage for nearly eight months by the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf rebel group has returned to the Philippines to testify against captured guerrillas on trial for kidnapping, officials said yesterday.

Jeffrey Schilling of Oakland, California, appeared under heavy guard yesterday at the trial of Hector Janjalani, an alleged Abu Sayyaf leader facing charges of kidnapping, murder and drug possession.

The trial, originally scheduled to be held near Abu Sayyaf lairs in Jolo, has been held in recent months in a police camp in Taguig for security reasons.

Janjalani, 28, is the older brother of Khadaffy Janjalani, who currently leads the Abu Sayyaf and is among five Abu Sayyaf leaders indicted in absentia in July.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Schilling's arrival was kept secret for his protection. He will stay at an undisclosed location until he completes his testimony against Janjalani and other captured Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, Perez said.

Army troops rescued Schilling in April 2001 in the jungles of Jolo island, where he was held by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas whom he visited with his Filipino wife, Ivy Osani, a relative of a rebel leader. Osani was allowed to leave but Schilling was detained.

Schilling, a Muslim convert, denied reports at the time that he had joined his captors. Civilians on Jolo had reported seeing him on patrol with guerrillas and carrying a rifle, but Schilling said he was told to carry a weapon for appearances.

At one point, the Abu Sayyaf threatened to behead Schilling as a birthday gift to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Infuriated, she ordered an "all-out war" against the group.

After his release, military officials said they were convinced that Schilling was an unwilling hostage.

About a month after his release, the guerrillas abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos from Dos Palmas in Puerto Princesa, starting a yearlong kidnapping spree that eventually involved 102 hostages. Eighteen, including one American, were beheaded or hacked to death.

The US military armed and trained Filipino troops in a six-month counterterrorism exercise this year to decimate the Abu Sayyaf in its traditional lair on Basilan island. US-trained Filipino troops are waging an offensive now against the Jolo-based rebels.

The military said Janjalani is a spokesperson and leader of the Abu Sayyaf. He was arrested in a Manila shopping mall in December 2000 after allegedly traveling to Manila to sell a video of Schilling to local and foreign television networks. *AP*

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Tough guy FPJ still coy on 2004 Palace bid

By C.D. Balana

POE

TRUE to his tough guy billing, movie action star Fernando Poe Jr. continues to resist the pressures being exerted on him by politicians and showbiz personalities to run for president, Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday.

Sotto, who himself hails from the entertainment industry, said not even former President Joseph Estrada, Poe's best friend in the industry, could convince him to run for president.

Sotto said it appeared that only the "*masa*" (masses) could convince Poe to enter politics.

"I can assure you, he (Poe) is not talking to anyone except to two personalities whom I do not like to name," said Sotto, on recent reports that made it appear Poe was warming up to the idea of running for president.

"I think he is thinking it through. But he has not completely closed the door to the possibility because, you know FPJ, *may pagtingin talaga yan sa masang Pilipino* (He respects the masses)," he said.

Sotto said he was sure Poe would not listen to the politicians, businessmen or even his showbiz friends when the time came to make his decision.

"He would throw his hat into the presidential race only if he received the endorsement and strong support of the people (masses) who have supported his movie career," Sotto said.

Sotto said that not even Poe's wife, former actress Susan Roces, could convince him to run. Besides, she was keeping her hands off the issue, he said.

Asked about the possible team-up of Poe with Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. as his running mate, Sotto said reports of the team-up were not true.

He also denied reports that former health secretary Alfredo Romualdez had sent an emissary to Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier to try to convince him to be Poe's running mate.

"That's nothing. These are just speculations. It's like Poe-Sotto— it's pure speculation," Sotto said.

19 Nokors in transit

NINETEEN North Koreans who sought asylum at the South Korean Embassy in Beijing are to transit Manila today en route to Seoul, according to foreign affairs officials and documents.

The North Koreans, including 13 women and six males ages 13 to 41, are scheduled to arrive from Xiamen, said an internal DFA document.

The group will catch a connecting flight to Seoul hours after arriving in the Philippines, acting Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Antonio Modena said in the confidential memo to the department's Office of Intelligence. *AP*

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2002

Foreign advisers ask Gloria to open RP market

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE 14-MEMBER International Board of Advisors to President Macapagal-Arroyo has told her to open the Philippine market to global trade, going against local clamor to instead stem liberalization.

The Board, composed mostly of executives of multinational firms, held a series of "off-the-record" meetings with Ms Macapagal, some Cabinet members and businessmen over two days.

"The Advisors believe that . . . the government must continue its program of reform and liberalization as well as take responsible steps towards promoting Philippine integration into the global economic system," according to a statement issued by Malacañang yesterday.

The Board also asked the President "to do whatever is possible to work with Congress to speed up the process of reform."

It added the Macapagal administration had made "some significant accomplishments, such as creating a policy environment that is generating real economic growth."

However, the statement did not say whether the administration was favorably considering the board's recommendation.

Last month Ms Macapagal told reporters that her administration would protect local manufacturers against the entry of cheap imports.

Unbridled globalization

She said the "unbridled globalization" preached during the early 90s was no longer relevant since the global economy was not as robust as it once was.

She even ordered Trade Secretary Mar Roxas to delay as much as possible the country's commitments to cut tariffs under the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta).

Malacañang said the President and the Board of Advisors discussed the country's prospects for growth and investments, the government's policies and the international competitiveness of Philippine goods and services.

The Board is composed of Maarten van den Bergh, chair of Lloyds Group plc; former US ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Bosworth, senior advisor to J.P. Morgan;

Anthony Burgmans, chair of Unilever N.V.; E. Gerald Corrigan, managing director of Goldman, Sachs & Co.; Xabier de Irala Estevez, chair and CEO of Iberia Lineas Aeréas de España;Marce Fuller, president and CEO of Mirant Corp.; Dr. Victor Fung, chair of Li & Fung Group; Maurice Greenberg, chair and CEO of American Intl Group, Inc.; Andrea Jung, chair and CEO of Avon Products, Inc.; former Australia prime minister Paul Keating; Minoru Makihara, chair of Mitsubishi Corp.; Masanobu Suzuki, president and CEO of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.; Laura D'andrea Tyson, dean of the London Business School; and Dr. Stephen Zuellig, chair of the Zuellig Group.

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Nueva Ecija benefiting from Casecnan, says dam operator

THE BENEFITS of the Casecnan multipurpose dam are now being initially enjoyed by farmers of Neva Ecija under the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS), according to the operator of the project, citing a report of the National Irrigation Administration's Casecnan pioject office.

CalEnergy International, in a press statement, said the full benefits will cover the entire rice industry sector in the area and the farmers in the 37,000 hectares new service area in the northern towns of the province with the completion of phase I in 2006 and phase II in 2008.

The Casecnan project, which became operational in December last year, was instrumental in supplying the irrigation needs of rice lands in Nueva Ecija province, it said.

CalErnegy made the statement in the wake of the complaint of Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson that the project was scarcely irrigating the province's rice fields in spite of the fact that the government pays the US-based firm P300 million monthly for the operation of the project.

Citing the the records from the NIA Casecnan Project office, it said the project delivered 112.7 million cubic meters of water to the Pantabangan reservoir from December to April 2002, contributing significantly to the irrigation of crops in the Upper Pampanga irrigation system.

No flawed assumptions

Without the Casecnan water delivery, about 11,000 hectares would have been critically stressed, according to the report.

The Casecnan Project is a multipurpose irrigation project that diverts the water of Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Viscaya to the Pantabangan reservoir for irrigation use, as well as to generate electricity.

The NIA report, CalEnergy said, also reported that the prolonged dry season from January to June this year may affect the annual expected delivery of water. The report noted, however, that water discharges from the two rivers improved considerably beginning the month of July. It also stressed that the minimal rainfall in the early part of the year was considered exceptional and is not considered a pattern.

During a public hearing called by the Senate recently, the president of the project's build-operate-transfer operator, David Baldwin, also refuted allegations that the project's hydrology assumptions were flawed. Baldwin told the Senate that the hydrology model for Casecnan was based on a 30-year period, and the expected annual delivery of 802 million cubic meters per year was the most conservative estimate.

He, however, clarified that the volume of water delivery would naturally be low during the summer months and would increase over the rainy season. Belying suggestions that the Casecnan water is unnecessary during the wet season, Baldwin clarified that Pantabangan Dam had always been underutilized—in fact it has only reached maximum elevation once its almost 30 years of existence—that Casecnan delivery is still required to enable Pantabangan dam to attain full utilization.

In the same Senate hearings, former NIA administrator Apolonio Bautista said that using the water delivery records from January to June to make a conclusion on Casecnan's capacity to deliver the expected volume fo water be "like judging a basketball game at the first half."

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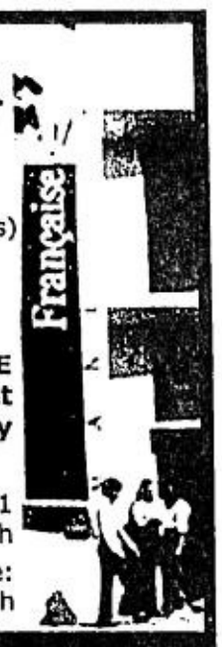

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PLUNDER IN CALOOCAN

Senate declares Gotesco land deal a scam

By Rocky Nazareno

MAYOR Rey Malonzo, his predecessor Macario Asistio Jr., several other city officials and Gotesco mall owner Jose Go face possible plunder charges after the Senate blue ribbon committee recommended they be charged for a land transaction that cost Caloocan City P700 million.

In a 14-page report, the blue ribbon committee found that the deal, which involved a prime 2.2685-hectare property on Rizal Avenue Extension where a Gotesco mall now stands was "tainted by serious anomalies."

The committee also asked Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to find out why the National Bureau of Investigation was "hesitant to go after the officials responsible for the anomalous transfer (of the property) after (the NBI) issued a very good report on the anomaly but sat on it," said blue ribbon chair Joker Arroyo.

Case for Ombudsman

The Senate committee report has been transmitted to the Ombudsman's office, the Department of Justice and the administrator of the Supreme Court for "appropriate investigation and, if warranted, criminal and administrative prosecution of the public officials... for acts and omissions that deprived the people of Caloocan City of revenues from the lot in question."

The P700 million figure came from the P500 million value of the land and P200 million in taxes still unpaid by Gotesco.

Anomalies involving at least P50 million constitute the charge of plunder for public officials. If that is so, "what more in this case?" asked committee member Sen. Ralph Recto.

Asistio was implicated because he allegedly approved the sale of the lot in 1983 to Gotesco, while Malonzo could face charges because, despite vetoing a city council ordinance endorsing the sale, "he did not seriously try to recover the property or to collect the taxes on it."

Sen. Robert Barbers exposed the anomaly in a privileged speech on May 15, 2002 titled, "Let Justice Be Served Though the Heavens Fall."

In the speech, Barbers accused Go of acquiring the prime property worth P500 million, "without paying a single centavo."

The lot, where the Cecilio Apostol Elementary School once stood, was leased to Gotesco in 1983 for 25 years at P6,000 per square meter.

Asistio executed an Absolute Deed of Sale that transferred the property to Gotesco at a price that the Commission on Audit later found was P10,000 per square meter lower than the land's appraised value.

The sale was supposed to have been rescinded in 1991 when the COA disapproved the transaction.

Legal maneuvers

But Gotesco appealed the COA decision and, in 1997, got COA approval for the sale provided the purchase price was increased to P8,026.39 per square meter.

"In the months that followed, Gotesco engaged in a series of legal maneuvers with only one objective in mind—to acquire title to the property without paying anything for it," the Senate committee report said.

Former interior secretary Manuel Sanchez and Land Registration Authority administrator Reynaldo Maulit had maintained that "a supplemental or amended deed of absolute sale was not necessary for the transfer of ownership of the lot to Gotesco," in separate opinions issued in 1998.

On April 15, 1998, Caloocan register of deeds Yolanda Alfonso issued a title in Gotesco's name and cancelled the title of Caloocan City over the land.

"The joint committees find the transfer in question not only anomalous but null and void for lack of consideration," the report said.

The report also noted that "Gotesco made profitable use of the land by constructing and operating a mall on it, earning huge rentals thereon, without paying a single centavo, not even for real estate taxes which alone amount to about P200 million.

Gokongwei accuser vows to fight on

By Agnes E. Donato

"I DON'T deserve this."

Mariquit Soriano, complainant in a sexual harassment case against the brother of business tycoon John Gokongwei, bewailed yesterday the dismissal of her suit by a Quezon City fiscal.

Soriano and some supporters picketed the QC Hall of Justice to protest the dismissal of her complaint against Johnson Robert Go, Gokongwei's brother, and Eric Severino, both top officials of telecom firm Digitel.

This was Soriano's first public appearance since learning on Tuesday that Assistant City Prosecutor Dindo Venturanza had dismissed the acts of lasciviousness suit she had filed against Go and Severino.

"I cannot just accept this. I will fight it out," Soriano said, adding that she had yet to get a copy of Venturanza's decision.

Soriano, with members of women's groups Gabriela and Teresa Makabayan, went to the court to try to speak to Venturanza about the case.

But they were told the fiscal was not feeling well and had gone home.

"Lack of credibility" was the reason Venturanza had cited for dismissing Soriano's complaint.

"(I) seriously doubt the allegations made by the complainant and believe the same should not be given full credence," Venturanza said in his four-page decision, a copy of which the Inquirer managed to obtain.

SORIANO

Venturanza pointed out that Soriano had failed to present at least one witness to corroborate her claim th at Go had sexually harassed her several times.

He said that Go, on the other hand, submitted sworn statements from witnesses who said they never saw Go make sexual advances on Soriano on the date—Nov. 19, 1999—in question.

"Complainant is a 51-year-old executive with extensive work experience in different companies. With her age and vast experience, any sexual advances against her, no matter who (may be doing it), would definitely receive great resistance and protestation," Venturanza reasoned.

"On the contrary, (she) never lifted a finger to file a complaint against her aggressor. This lackadaisical attitude clearly defies logic and common experience," Venturanza said.

He also described as "flimsy" Soriano's excuse that she was delayed in filing a complaint because she could not find a good lawyer to represent her.

Venturanza further said that going by Soriano's complaint, none of the acts attributed to Severino constituted violation of the sexual harassment law.

Soriano had alleged that Severino would stare at her legs and then focus his gaze at her crotch during business meetings.

She said that Severino also insisted that she wear shorts during company out-of-town trips.

"Mere lustful stares or preference of clothing will not suffice as a violation of the law," Venturanza said.

The prosecutor also cleared Severino of charges he started to treat Soriano with hostility and give her low performance ratings after she had told him about Go's sexual advances on her.

"Whatever performance rating complainant received clearly falls within the ambit of management prerogative," he said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 11, 2002
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gal 3:7-14
Gospel: Lk 11:15-26

When Jesus was casting out a devil some of the people said, "He drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the chief of the demons." So others wanted to put him to the test by asking him for a heavenly sign.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every nation divided by civil war is on the road to ruin, and will fall. If Satan also is divided, his empire is coming to an end. How can you say that I drive out demons by calling upon Beelzebul? If I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your fellow members drive out demons? They themselves will give you the answer.

But suppose I drive out demons by the finger of God; would not this mean that the kingdom of God has come upon you? As long as the strong and armed man guards his house, his goods are safe. But when a stronger one attacks and overcomes him, the challenger takes away all the weapons he relied on and disposes of his spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters.

When the evil spirit goes out of a person, it wanders through dry lands looking for a resting place. And finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds the house swept and everything in order. Then it goes to fetch seven other spirits even worse than itself. They move in and settle there, so that the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Commentary

Some people want to see the Gospels as a narrative of some kind of conflict between Jesus, God's Son and the devil's or evil powers. The world will be the battlefield and people will be foot soldiers who would have to suffer the effects of war, which is being unfurled even inside our very heart. But we must not forget that what Jesus is offering us is the liberation of those devilish powers and the possibility of living in freedom. Jesus' presence is the sign of evil's defeat and the Kingdom's presence. It is up to us to receive this presence and to accept the freedom offered us by God.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Principles governing a foreign corporation's right to sue in local courts—The principles governing a foreign corporation's right to sue in local courts have long been settled by our Corporation Law. These principles may be condensed in three statements, to wit: (a) if a foreign corporation does business in the Philippines without a license, it cannot sue before the Philippine courts; (b) if a foreign corporation is not doing business in the Philippines, it needs no license to sue before Philippine courts on an isolated transaction or on a cause of action entirely independent of any business transaction; and (c) if a foreign corporation does business in the Philippines with the required license, it can sue before Philippine courts on any transaction. Apparently, it is not the absence of the prescribed license but the "doing (of) business" in the Philippines without such license which debars the foreign corporation from access to our courts. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Third Division, MR Holdings, Inc. v. Bajar, G. R. No. 138104, April 11, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

RTC judges raise alarm over killings, low salaries

A NATIONAL group of judges has expressed concern over their "much-feared diminution amid increasing number of senseless killings of judges and worsened by their inadequate and non-competitive pay scales."

Manila Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Marino M. dela Cruz Jr., president of the Philippine Judges Association (PJA), expressed the concern during the interment of Judge Oscar M. Uson of Tayug, Pangasinan, at the Eternal Gardens in Dagupan City.

The national organization of all the Regional Trial Court (RTC) judges throughout the country condemned the summary executions of judges, saying "in a short period of less than one year, three judges in active service have fallen victims to ambush slaying in their respective stations."

Judge Uson, the latest victim, was ambushed while on his way home form work on Sept. 27.

The two other judges who were similarly killed were Judge Eugenio R. Valles of the RTC in Nabunturan, Davao del Norte, and Judge Ariston L. Rubio of the RTC in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

"The PJA views with alarm and apprehension these successive executions of judges whose role and important function in society is to umpire or referee disputes among the community members," he said.

Killing the umpires

Dela Cruz added; "If these acts of eliminating umpires or referees do not abate, it may be long when the country's benches would be all vacant."

He said one-third of the nation's trial benches are vacant mainly because of the present inadequate and non-competitive pay scales of the judges.

Dela Cruz attended Uson's burial recently and expressed the PJA's sympathy to the Uson family headed by Dr. Estrellita Uson, widow of the slain judge.

"With these senseless killings of judges, we can only expect the vacancy to swell as replacements will be hard in coming," he said.

The PJA president was accompanied by RTC Judges Ulysses Butuyan of Tayug, Jules Mejia of Alaminos City, Salvador P. Vedania, Emilio V. Angeles and Emma Bauzon of Lingayen town, and Emma M. Torio of Dagupan City and lawyers Dean Hermogenes Decano and Clerk of Court Victor Manalo of RTC Alaminos.

"The judges do not fear death while in the performance of their duties, but it is the effect of such assaults upon their persons that worry them greatly because of the impact that these killings create on civil order and stability of society," Dela Cruz said.

The judiciary, he said, is made up of judges spread all over the country and comprise "the last line of defense in a democracy."

"Without a judiciary, democracy will degenerate into anarchy," he said.

Gullas bill to speed up delivery of teachers' paychecks

THE NEARLY half a million public school teachers and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education are keenly awaiting the approval of a House bill that would decentralize the releases of their salary.

House Bill 2542, the proposed act to regionalize the payroll service division (PSD) of the DepEd was filed principally by Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas, vice chair of the House basic education committee.

Gullas said the measure will end the decades-old practice of centralizing the payroll system in Manila and would ensure that teachers from Aparri to Jolo would be able to get their pay without bureaucratic delays.

Mary Paulin, president of the Cebu Public School Teachers Association said the measure seeks to establish payroll offices in all DepEd field offices in various regions except in Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Paulin said the measure was important to teachers because it would speed up the release of their paychecks.

"Presently, it takes PSD Manila from three to five months, sometimes even longer, before it can release the paychecks of these teachers," Paulin said.

Because of the delayed releases of their salaries, she said teachers were being forced to borrow from money lenders who usually charge exorbitant interests.

"Thus, the poor teachers get only a pittance from their pay once released, and their financial plight becomes all the more difficult," Paulin said.

Paulin said teachers also become victims of pay-related irregularities such as unauthorized, over-, or delayed deductions and wrong computations of withholding tax and other anomalies.

She cited actual cases which happened in Cebu.

Early this year, she said some 10,00 teachers in Cebu got P150 deductions for a supposed "Edure" insurance for which they did not apply.

She said complaints were made to then Education Secretary Raul Roco who promptly ordered a stop to the unauthorized deductions.

But she said many of the teachers have not been reimbursed.

Four years ago, she said the entire teaching staff of a division in Cebu City received tax withholding certificates that did not reflect the actual amounts deducted from their salary every month.

As a result, she said the teachers had to pay the missing amounts ranging from P1,000 to P5,000.

"Where had the money gone? It's anybody's guess," she said.

She cited a case of hundreds of teachers in Cebu in 1983 whose paychecks were reduced by P50 each for a supposed premium payment of insurance policies they did not apply for.

Got press release? Don't fax it. E-mail it!

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer just opened new e-mail addresses where you can send your press releases as well as articles and/or features you want to contribute.

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Beginning Oct. 16, our fax numbers at the editorial will be used exclusively by the editorial staff.

Kaya ng Pinoy basta PATAS ang laban!

PAGKATAPOS ng halos isang dekada ng walang pakundangang pagbagsak ng taripa sa halos lahat na imported na produkto, may bago tayong pag-asa at panimula.

Ipinag-utos na ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ang pagrerepaso sa mga programang pagbabawas ng taripa sa mga dayuhang produkto, na siyang pumapatay sa ating mga lokal na industriya at agrikultura. Na siyang dahilan ng pagkawala ng trabaho at kabuhayan ng laksang manggagawa at magbubukid.

Ang wika ng Pangulo: "*Your President will not be the president to turn off the lights in the factories. Your President will fight for jobs and industries.*"

Ang utos ng Pangulo ay nagpapatunay lamang ng kanyang paniniwala sa kakayahan ng Pilipino.

Bilang ganti, nais naming ihayag kay Pangulong Arroyo, at sa buong sambayanan, na kaya ng mga industriya at manggagawang Pilipino na lumaban nang sabayan sa pandaigdigang larangan – basta pantay lang ang laban.

Sa galing at abilidad, lamang ang Pinoy.

Ang kailangan lamang ay ipantay ang di makatarungang larangan ng labanan kung saan patuloy na pinipigilan ng ibang bansa ang pagpasok sa kanila ng ating mga produkto, habang itinatambak naman nila sa pamilihan ng Pilipinas ang kanilang mga patapon na produkto. Kailangan lamang ng kaunti pang pag-aayos para maihanda nang husto ang ating mga industriya upang makasabay sa kompetisyon ng ibang bansa.

Kailangang lamang na mailatag ang mga nararapat na patakaran at polisiya, lalo na sa taripa, upang mapalakas ang ating mga lokal na industriya at mapatalas nila ang kanilang mga kakayahan, teknolohiya at pasilidad.

Sa katunayan, marami sa ating mga lokal na industriya ay mayroon nang sapat na kakayahan, subalit napipilayan sila dahil sa maling patakaran sa taripa, ismagling at iba pa.

Ito ay bagong panimula. Kailangang magkaisa pa at palakasin ang ugnayan ng lahat na samahan ng mga lokal na industriya, agrikultura, manggagawa at magsasaka upang maisapatuparan ang bagong panimula na ito. Magkaisa din tayo para mapaunlad natin ang ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng pag-papasaayos ng ating kakayahan sa paggawa.

Maraming salamat Pangulong Arroyo sa inyong paniniwala sa kakayahan ng industriya at manggagawang Pilipino!

FAIR TRADE ALLIANCE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2002

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Three is not enough

EDITORIAL

TAKE it from the chief of the Philippine National Police. You cannot trust just any policeman to act on a kidnapping case. For all you know, the policeman you run to for help could be in cahoots with the kidnappers. Best for you to seek the help of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team.

Whether intended as advice or warning, that statement of Director General Hermogenes Ebdane rang alarm bells across the nation. Of course, he made it clear he was talking of kidnapping. But when he vouched for the trustworthiness of the members of the Pacer team, he seemed to have damned by implication the rest of the police force.

Actually what Ebdane said was nothing new. Many others had said as much earlier. And for very good reasons. Men in uniform and other agents of the law seem to be behind every big crime, with the exception of graft and corruption. Criminal syndicates involved in kidnapping, robbery, drug trafficking and other crimes always seem to have some law enforcement agents among its key operatives. Ebdane's candid admission only served as confirmation of this widespread suspicion of police collusion with criminals.

Some lawmakers have criticized Ebdane for his candor. One congressman even demanded his resignation for causing demoralization in the ranks of the PNP. Of course, the congressman missed the bigger problem completely and in the process revealed once more his penchant for shielding wrongdoers (he is among the loudest defenders of Rep. Mark Jimenez whose extradition is being sought by the government of the United States). By Ebdane's own reckoning, there are 5,000 scalawags in the police force. Would he be doing the nation a service by sweeping the problem under the rug, as the congressman seems to believe?

"Rather unfortunate" was how Senate President Franklin Drilon described Ebdane's statement, but he had enough sense to recognize the real problem. He said the PNP chief should purge the force of scalawags.

That is the task before Ebdane now: to clean up the ranks and rid the police force of criminals in uniform. Ebdane said a crackdown was already on, following a directive issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo. He cited the arrest in August of a police superintendent and two policemen involved in robbery and car theft as well as a couple of former Marines suspected of different crimes.

Obviously these accomplishments are not enough. Catching three erring policemen in two months hardly makes for a serious crackdown. It won't even cause concern among the hard-boiled thugs hiding in police uniforms. At that rate it would take almost three centuries to rid the PNP of the 5,000 scalawags that infest it now according to Ebdane himself.

A more serious effort to find and prosecute these rogue policemen is clearly in order if the PNP wishes to win back the trust of the people. For starters, the police should wrap up its investigation of the two-year-old murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver, in which some top police officers were allegedly involved. Then they should go after the ranking police officers implicated in drug trafficking by former civilian agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong. The successful resolution of these cases should show more than anything else that Ebdane and the PNP are really determined to clean up the police force. Anything less would mark the effort as half-hearted and useless.

Translator troubles

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE NATION'S security depends in large part on gathering intelligence, and that requires foreign language expertise. That's why it's troubling that a congressional report found glaring weaknesses in linguistics at the State Department, the CIA, the FBI and the armed services.

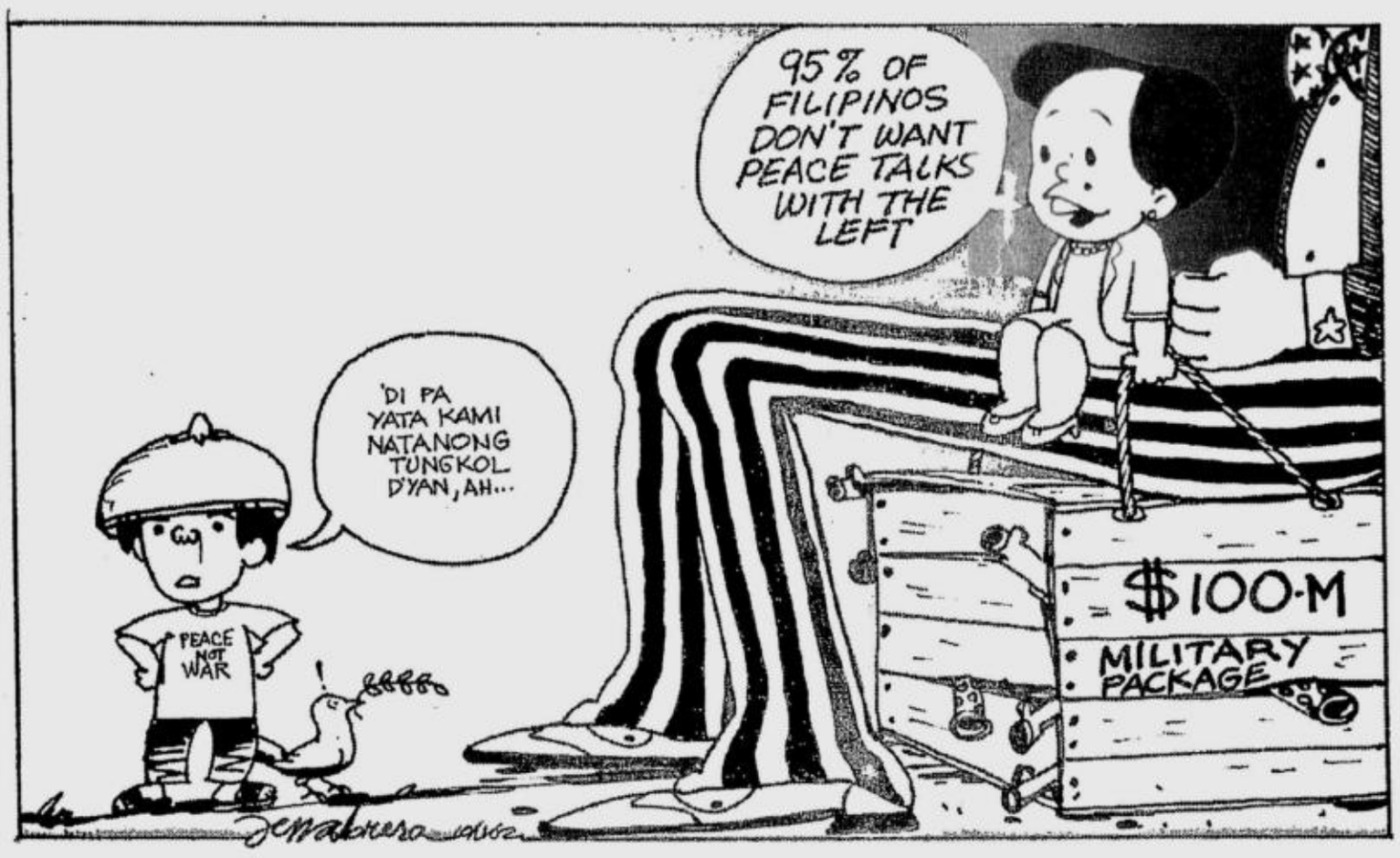
The agencies don't have enough personnel who are proficient in foreign languages, much less fluent, a report that was presented to the House Armed Services terrorism subcommittee this week said. The shortages are especially critical for languages that are considered difficult, such as Arabic, Farsi, Korean and Russian.

The government has been trying to address the problem by spending millions on language training.

But it's not a quick or cheap fix. It takes two years of intensive training for someone to gain a "limited working level" in a language like Arabic, according to the Defense Language Institute.

Since agencies can't know for certain which languages will be important in the future, training alone can never fill all their needs.

The Times-Picayune, (New Orleans)



The police plan to make Metro Manila safe

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"DON'T trust just any cop." This warning came from the chief of the Philippine National Police himself, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

Well then, if we cannot trust all the policemen, how do we know whom to trust and whom not to? General Ebdane should at least give a few hints. Better yet, shouldn't he weed out from the police force those who cannot be trusted?

I remember that during his inaugural speech, General Ebdane said that winning the community to the side of the police, getting its trust and confidence, is at the core of making the nation safe.

Echoing him, his deputy, Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco, director of the National Capital Region, said that the police has "to be accepted as ally and protector, not an enemy of the people.

Addressing the officers and men of the Central Police District, General Velasco unveiled his plans to make "Metro Manila the safest urban center in East Asia." That's a tall order, considering that the territory of the CPD, Quezon City, is known as the "carnapping" and squatting capital of the Philippines. "Araneta Center (in Cubao) is known for mugging and snatching," Velasco said, "and Commonwealth Avenue for cellphone snatching." How do you stop that?

The overall strategy of Velasco, who has a weakness for acronyms, is summarized in the word COPS, which stands for Community Oriented Policing System. COPS "means only one thing," said Velasco. "The police force can and will succeed in its crime-fighting job only by closely working with the community which is the constituency they are sworn to serve."

Comprising the overall plan are the following:

1. The "Broken Window" strategy perfected by the New York Police Department. "This strategy demands the crime mapping of a city," Velasco explained. "It is premised on common knowledge that some part of the city are prone to one kind of crime or another, committed at given times of the day or night. There are also crime magnets like shoppers or 24-hour convenience stores or banks or deserted places where rapists bring their victims.

"Given the raw data on crime reports for a year or two, a good district commander can make a crime map. Based on the crime map, he develops a system of effectively using his few uniformed policemen, patrol cars, motorcycles cops, detectives and even investigators to achieve the best results. The district can also set up a blocking force at the right intersection if car-riding criminals are reported on the way to his territory."

2. "Magic Eye" has caught the imagination of the public. "It started when (the police) tied up with a few television stations devoted to police matters...to catch 'kotong' cops in the act of extortion. It has now expanded to include spot reports on all types of ongoing crimes and even the spotting of wanted criminals or suspiciously illegal activities.

Velasco said that Globe and Smart, wireless phone carriers, are being enlisted to be part of the system, and that he is formalizing an organization with another acronym of COPS (for Citizens Organization for Police Support) from whose members will come "Magic Eye" volunteers.

3. The "Huli-Agad" strategy seeks to deploy policemen rapidly to deter, or in response, to a crime and arrest the suspects. Instead of police cars, which are often delayed by traffic, Velasco is deploying 100 big motorcycles, donated by the PNB Foundation, which can weave in and out of traffic jams. Sen. Juan Flavier and Rep. Gilbert Teodoro are also donating another 100 units of motorbikes, he added.

4. The "Police Express" is a system which brings whole packages of police services, from patrolling to investigative work, close to the people who need these. The idea has been piloted in five shopping malls in Metro Manila, two of them being the SM Megamall on Edsa and the Tutuban Mall in Divisoria, Manila.

To prevent accidents from creating traffic jams while waiting for traffic investigators to arrive and make measurements, sketches and notes of the accidents, "Police Express" will field traffic policemen armed with cameras and typewriters (or laptops?) to investigate and document accidents on site to quickly untangle traffic.

"When resources allow," Velasco added, "Police Express will field police vans with complete facilities to become mobile police stations deployed to crime-prone zones. The police teams are envisioned to respond, investigate and even temporarily detain suspects in the police vans."

Velasco also plans to send police station commanders to the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) to train them to become effective Police Managers, as well as to continue to train members of the police force.

He believes that police station commanders of the 21st Century must have a working knowledge of management, besides law, to effectively run police forces in highly congested, complex communities like Metro Manila.

In the metropolis, 15,615 people are jampacked in every square kilometer of land and only one policeman is assigned to protect every 750 persons.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Make Basilan, the turf of the Abu Sayyaf, a tourist destination? Why not? Asked Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon. Banditry is caused by poverty. Give the people jobs and banditry will disappear. Tourism will do that.

Secretary Gordon will amplify his brainstorm at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) this Monday. Be there and listen.

In their name

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FOLLOWING is the statement issued by over 16,000 signatories (as of last count) in various newspapers in the United States. Some of them should ring a bell, they are among the most brilliant in their fields.

In movies, there are Robert Altman (Gosford Park), Oliver Stone, Hector Elizondo, Susan Sarandon, John Sayles (writer, director, actor, an absolute genius), Vigo Mortenssen (Aragorn in "LOTR," who also happens to be a poet), Marisa Tomei, and the redoubtable Jane Fonda. In literature, Gore Vidal, Kurt Vonnegut, Alice Walker, and our very own Jessica Hagedorn ("Dog Eaters"). Other people include scholar Edward Said, Noam Chomsky (who landed in Time's review of the best minds of the 20th century), Ramsey Clark (probably the best US chief justice in a long time), and Gloria Steinem (who needs no intro).

Their statement should lay to rest one humungous fallacy that has been hounding public discourse since 9/11. That is that to protest the dangerous turn America has taken since then is to be "anti-American," or to favor those who are opposed to "our democratic way of life. It is in fact to be anti-American only in the sense that it was to be "un-American" to protest McCarthyism in the 1950s. And it is in fact to defend the very way of life America has stood for.

Their statement, entitled "In Our Name," says it best. I've had to clip it severely to fit this space:

Let it not be said that people in the United States did nothing when their government declared a war without limit and instituted stark new measures of repression.

The signers of this statement call on the people of the United States to resist the policies and overall political direction that have emerged since Sept. 11, 2001, and which pose grave dangers to the people of the world.

We believe that peoples and nations have the right to determine their own destiny, free from military coercion by great powers. We believe that all persons detained or prosecuted by the United States government should have the same rights of due process. We believe that questioning, criticism and dissent must be valued and protected.

We believe that people of conscience must take responsibility for what their own governments do—we must first of all oppose the injustice that is done in our own name. Thus, we call on all Americans to RESIST the war and repression that has been loosed on the world by the Bush administration. It is unjust, immoral and illegitimate. We choose to make common cause with the people of the world.

We too watched with shock the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001. We too mourned the thousands of innocent dead and shook our heads at the terrible scenes of carnage—even as we recalled similar scenes in Baghdad, Panama City, and, a generation ago, Vietnam. We too joined the anguished questioning of millions of Americans who asked why such a thing could happen.

But the mourning had barely begun when the highest leaders of the land unleashed a spirit of revenge. They put out a simplistic script of "good vs. evil" that was taken up by a pliant and intimidated media. They told us that asking why these terrible events had happened verged on treason. There was to be no debate.

In our name, the Bush administration not only attacked Afghanistan but arrogated to itself and its allies the right to rain down military force anywhere and anytime. The brutal repercussions have been felt from the Philippines to Palestine. The government now openly prepares to wage all-out war on Iraq—a country which has no connection to the horror of Sept. 11. What kind of world will this become if the US government has a blank check to drop commandos, assassins and bombs wherever it wants?

In our name, within the United States, the government has created two classes of people: those to whom the basic rights of the US legal system are at least promised, and those who now seem to have no rights at all. The government rounded up over 1,000 immigrants and detained them in secret and indefinitely. Hundreds have been deported and hundreds of others still languish today in prison. This smacks of the infamous concentration camps for Japanese-Americans in World War II. For the first time in decades, immigration procedures single out certain nationalities for unequal treatment.

In our name, the government has brought down a pall of repression over society. The President's spokesperson warns people to "watch what they say." Dissident artists, intellectuals and professors find their views distorted, attacked and suppressed. The so-called Patriot Act—along with a host of similar measures on the state level—gives police sweeping new powers of search and seizure, supervised if at all by secret proceedings before secret courts.

In our name, the executive has steadily usurped the roles and functions of the other branches of government. Military tribunals with lax rules of evidence and no right to appeal to the regular courts are put in place by executive order. Groups are declared "terrorist" at the stroke of a presidential pen.

There is a deadly trajectory to the events of the past months that must be seen for what it is and resisted. Too many times in history people have waited until it was too late to resist.

President Bush has declared: "you're either with us or against us." Here is our answer: We refuse to allow you to speak for all the American people. We will not give up our right to question. We will not hand over our consciences in return for a hollow promise of safety. We say NOT IN OUR NAME. We refuse to be party to these wars and we repudiate any inference that they are being waged in our name or for our welfare. We extend a hand to those around the world suffering from these policies; we will show our solidarity in word and deed.

RP's low strategic priority

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has expressed the forlorn hope that the $30-million supplemental military aid for the Philippines vetoed by President George W. Bush would be restored through a separate request to Congress.

The $30-million was part of the $5.1-billion emergency spending bill passed by the US Congress and vetoed by Bush because it contained appropriations he did not request. In our Congress, these are called "riders." Bush cited budgetary constraints as the reason for rejecting the package. The $30 million appropriated for Philippine military aid went down with the veto of the larger package. It is in addition to the core P100-million aid pledged by Bush to President Macapagal during her visit to the United States in November last year after her administration forcefully backed the US-led campaign against terrorism. The core aid program remains intact.

Showing a brave face after the veto, President Macapagal said that, "It's not that the United States has not complied with its commitment or pledges. It's just that there was a windfall that could have been there...but it's still work in progress." However, the prospects of restoring the vetoed item are virtually nil. A separate request for restoration has to go back to Congress. But the Bush administration and Congress are now preoccupied with Bush's request for a resolution authorizing him to go to war with Iraq if it does not dismantle its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for mass destruction.

Bush sent his veto message to Congress last August, but it was only disclosed the other day when a reporter asked the president a question on the veto during a speech at the Foreign Correspondents Club of the Philippines. Moreover, the United States faces congressional elections in November, and a separate request for restoration of the vetoed item will have to wait until the next Congress convenes.

The dumping of the $30-million aid item, though a minuscule amount in relation to the $5.1-billion emergency spending package, reflects the low strategic priority of the Philippines in the US-driven campaign against terrorism. This is despite the United States declaration that the Philippines is a key link in the "second front" opened in Southeast Asia in the battle against terrorism.

A summary of Bush's remarks on the veto at the president's economic forum in Waco, Texas, on Aug. 13 was released by the US Embassy in Manila. The summary said in part:

"The large part of the bill approved spending about $23,900 million the president did request for homeland security and assistance for New York City's recovery from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The part rejected by Bush includes about $200 million for foreign AIDS prevention, $200 million in assistance to Israel to fight terrorism and $50 million in humanitarian assistance in the West Bank. But Congress included in the bill other appropriations which Bush did not request."

One such item, which Bush ridiculed and rejected, was a request to spend for "a new facility for storing the government's collection of bugs and worms." The money was aimed at "reducing the security threat at Smithsonian Institution museum that keeps specimens in thousands of liters of flammable solution."

Bush said that while he rejected the entire package, he would submit separate requests to Congress to approve the spending he had recommended, including the items cited in the abovementioned paragraphs. Bush excluded the $30 million appropriated for supplementary aid among the items he seeks to restore through separate legislation.

The $30 million was not contained in the original request to Congress. Bush's intentions to work for the restoration of appropriating for selected items indicate the insignificant position of the Philippines in the scale of US strategic priorities now dominated by its campaign to disarm Iraq and go to war, with or without United Nations Security Council mandate, if President Saddam Hussein blocks new UN inspection of his weapons arsenal.

Even though the Philippines is now linked to the US-led coalition in the fight against terrorism, Filipinos should not delude themselves into thinking that we are an indispensable cog in the coalition. As some Filipino officials in Washington have observed, the Philippines is not even "a dot" on the strategic map and concerns of the United States, especially in its determination to disarm Iraq and bring about a "regime change" in Baghdad.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez more or less admitted that, like it or not, the reality is that "we are not in the center of gravity."

By contrast, Egypt, for example, receives $2 billion in annual assistance from the United States to shore up its faltering economy, and yet the public mood in Egypt is antagonistic to the US plan to invade Iraq and to the Bush administration's support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians.

Despite US aid, President Hosni Mubarak is lukewarm to the project of a US-led war on Iraq, and it is uncertain whether Egypt will allow the United States to use a section of the Cairo airport for transit of US troops and for refueling US aircraft in attacking Iraq.

Weaving commitments

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE REPRODUCTIVE Health Advocacy Network (RHAN), composed of 23 service delivery organizations, women's groups and advocacy groups, will hold a national conference on the Reproductive Health Care Bill today at the Ninoy Aquino Learning Center, fourth floor Social Recreation Hall, PUP-Main, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The conference, entitled "Itaguyod! Buhay, Kalusugan at Karapatan! (Support! Life, Health and Rights!)," gathers reproductive health and human rights advocates, community women and men, legislators and religious leaders to lend their voices in support of an "Integrated National Policy and Program on Reproductive Health" that recognizes women's reproductive rights and gender equality and ensures universal access to reproductive health, services, information and education.

A highlight of the day-long affair is the weaving of support for the bill, with colorful threads symbolizing the "10 Elements of Reproductive Health" passed around and woven together by the participants as a symbolic gesture of their determination to "bind all in their commitment to save lives, promote health and fulfill rights." Say the organizers: "The weaving of support shows individuals cannot live only for themselves. Numerous fibers connect everybody with others; and among those fibers, each one's actions run as causes and come back as effects...Through each one's effort we can build a healthier nation."

The heart of the conference is an open forum with legislators on the RH Bill, with Congress represented by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Reps. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Krisel Lagman-Luistro and JR Nereus O. Acosta. The discussions will be followed by a quiz contest on reproductive health and will close with a mini-concert featuring Joey Ayala and Lolit Carbon.

* * *

IN THE FACE of a vociferous and indeed deceptive campaign against the Reproductive Health bill mounted by conservative elements of the Catholic Church, it's become necessary to explain just what is meant by the term "reproductive health."

I remember taking part in a TV debate on the "RH" public service messages starring Rosanna Roces and hearing someone on the other side claim that "reproductive health is just a euphemism for abortion."

I was flabbergasted, to say the least, to hear someone reducing, so casually, so publicly, so ignorantly, a concept and policy that the women's movement had fought for so long to promote among the world's governments. It was like saying human rights is just a euphemism for criminality.

Anyway, just what do we mean by "reproductive health" or "reproductive rights"? Reproductive health covers far wider ground than just abortion or family planning, though these are certainly part of it, and is a concern even for people who are not yet of reproductive age, or are beyond it. The 10 Elements of Reproductive Health are: maternal and child health care, adolescent reproductive health, reproductive health for the elderly, male involvement, reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS/HIV, prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications, violence against women and cancers.

Reproductive health is a concern not just during pregnancy and childbirth, but also throughout the life cycle of women and men. Healthy mothers and fathers really need to start out in life as healthy babies, receiving good health care and adequate nutrition in childhood and adolescence. By the same token, the full impact of health problems during the "reproductive career" of men and women may not be felt until well into their "golden" years, well past reproductive age.

* * *

EQUALLY crucial for a full understanding of "reproductive health and rights" is to point out that the reproductive lives of couples—and how they make and act on their reproductive plans and decisions—has an impact not just on their lives and destinies, but on the lives and destinies of people around them, most especially their children.

Wednesday night's "Jessica Soho Reports" carried moving footage of the hardscrabble lives of families in urban poor communities around Metro Manila, specifically along the railroad tracks. Among the families featured was a family of 10, so poor that the parents had already given away five children because they couldn't afford to feed so many mouths.

Another mother had eight children and she was just 24. I made a quick calculation and concluded that if she had given birth to one child a year, she would have started down the road of motherhood when she was just 14!

True enough, Soho captured on-cam another young mother, very much pregnant at 15. I felt a twinge in my heart, for just across the table was my 16-year-old daughter. There but for the grace of God...

* * *

OF COURSE, the two couples and young mother I mentioned are well within their rights to make their families as large—or as small—as they want. But we need to drum into the heads of couples that bringing children into the world is a tremendous responsibility. Also, that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that they have enough resources to bring up children so they become the adults they are destined to become. By resources I mean not just financial, the money to buy food, provide shelter and a good education. I also mean emotional and physical resources, enough time, energy, commitment and love to raise children and deal with the tremendous challenges of parenthood. Not all adults are meant to be, or should be, parents. But having said that, I also believe that parents struggling with their new roles deserve all the help they can get.

Christmas and Rizal

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOMEONE reminded me recently that we have finally come upon the so-called "BER" months namely: September, October, November and December. It was a rather tactless thing to do, but then one has to be jolted into the realization that 2002 is almost over. Unlike previous years, I did not feel Yuletide cheer right away because few business establishments these days are brazen enough to induce spending by playing Christmas carols on their sound systems. I wonder how Christmas was celebrated in the Philippines before US greeting cards supplied our consciousness with scenes of Santa Claus, red-nosed reindeer, gifts and snow.

We know from Rizal's writings that Christmas was not so merry for children. In "El filibusterismo," for example, Rizal describes being roused early for dawn Mass, being washed and dressed in the finest clothes which are uncomfortable, itchy and pretentious. He endured long Masses accented by the heat and assorted human smells from the bored crowd. What he remembers from childhood Christmas is being pinched to behave, and suffering indigestion from too much sweets at *noche buena*. Filipinos in the 19th Century and earlier had: *misas de gallo, misa de aguinaldo, puto bung-bong, bibingka* and *salabat*. They had tables groaning with ham, cheese, chestnuts and sweets of Christmas but didn't have Santa or Christmas trees. In November 1886 Rizal was in Berlin where he wrote a letter to his elder sister Saturnina describing some European customs he wanted to bring home:

"Although I have already told you in my letters to our parents all the news I have, nevertheless this does not excuse me from writing to you. As you already know, I am here in Germany, going from city to city, from town to town, visiting all the educational centers, the town schools, the parishes; the churches. Many times after listening to a Catholic sermon, I go to a Protestant church to attend the services there and sometimes to the synagogue of the Jews. Everything that can teach me something interests me, so that I can bring to the Philippines the best that I find here. There are some beautiful and good customs, like for example, those of Christmas, which gives me pleasure to describe here for it is not found in Spain and you have not read about it in Spanish books.

"On Christmas Eve, they bring from the forest a pine tree and this tree is chosen because, besides being erect, it is the only tree which keeps its leaves during winter—I say it badly; not really leaves, but a kind of needle. It is decorated with tinsel, paper, lights, dolls, candy, fruits, dainties etc., and at night time, it is shown to the children (who should not see the preparation of it), and around this tree the family celebrates Christmas. They say, and I have also read it that in England there is another custom for older persons. In certain parts of the house is hung a twig of mistletoe or *gui* in French. When a young man and woman find themselves under it and he does not kiss her, he must pay a fine or give her a present. For this reason, many young men stroll in the streets carrying a twig of mistletoe. When they see a pretty girl, they approach her and kiss her. When she looks up and sees the mistletoe held over her head by the mischievous young man, she smiles, keeps quiet, and says nothing. This is very English.

"The only custom I have seen in Madrid, which perhaps we have adopted, is eating a fish called besugo and roast turkey, which shows that the Spaniards do not indulge in poems for children and young people, or as the vulgar expression goes, they do not go around the bush. They attend more to the positive or the stomach. And *Carambas*! They would say; let us amuse ourselves and let children and young people seek their own diversion with the result that the children and young people in Spain lack the charming innocence and candor of those of the North, without malice, without great preoccupations. A good young woman can walk alone in the streets until 10 or 11 o'clock at night without being molested. A pretty girl, well educated and rich, can travel safely for leagues and leagues alone with her handbag and luggage. This is because here they know how to give each age its due, unlike in other countries where children are not allowed to be themselves, to make noise or to play. Instead they are made to recite the rosary and novena until the poor youngsters become very sleepy and understand nothing of what is going on. Consequently, when they reach the age of reason, they pray just as they have when they were children. Without understanding what they are saying; they fall asleep or think of nonsense. Nothing can destroy a thing more than the abuse of it, and praying can also be abused."

Rizal begins a familiar letter but cannot resist turning it into a lecture. Aside from telling us they did not have Christmas trees in his time, Rizal also demonstrates how to fill four sheets of paper without saying anything. Rizal left us with 25 printed volumes of writings and I often wonder how much of these mean anything at all.

* * *

Tomorrow morning at 10, at the Tambunting Hall of the National Museum, I will deliver a lecture on relics and artifacts in the care of the National Historical Institute. The public is invited.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A life change

HIGH BLOOD

Oscar R. Landicho

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

AFTER LIVING with malfunctioning kidneys since June 2000, I am now happily living with a healthy, well-functioning donated kidney.

And I don't appear to have been recently operated. I can now live a normal life because I feel strong.

An expert medical team led by Dr. Ronald Anthony Faller and Dr. Ramon Mora performed the risky three-hour kidney transplant operation at the World City Medical Center in Quezon City last Sept. 28. I was discharged from the hospital last Oct. 5.

During the operation, my two malfunctioning kidney's were not removed. And my new kidney is in my right side, below my abdomen.

Right or wrong, I had to make a decision on whether to have a kidney transplantation or not because I am not getting younger.

I decided to have the operation done in Metro Manila and not in Sydney where I have been living and working as a journalist since 1972 because of my conviction and trust that we have the best and most competent doctors in the world.

Since June 2000, I have had to undergo a regular three-day a week hemodialysis. I spent five hours each session.

Whenever the renal nurse injected a big needle in my fistula to start the hemodialysis, I referred it as a nursing brutality. This is because when the anesthesia does not work well, it is very painful.

I made history by becoming the first male patient to have a kidney transplant operation at the World City Medical Center.

And according to the nurses, I am the first patient who did not ask for a pain-killer after my operation. I did not feel any pain during and after the operation.

I attribute my dramatic and quick recovery to my strong faith in God and in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

My kidney transplantation was made possible when Dr. Magie Latonio Membrebe of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, a goddaughter of my wife (the former Rosette Talens) and her husband, Dr. Federico Membrebe Jr., of Binangonan, Rizal found a compatible kidney donor for me.

I am lucky because my donated kidney was bigger and wider by one centimeter.

The other members of the medical team were doctors Roger de la Cruz, Marichu Brillantes, Nadia Sarmiento, Ayi Faller and Richard Perez. My chief anesthesist was Dr. Ambrosio. Of course, the Membrebes assisted in the operation and never left me until I woke up.

After arriving from Sydney on Sept. 15, I went straight to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City from the airport, to prepare myself for the kidney transplant operation.

I did not inform my sisters and other relatives in Metro Manila about my operation because I did not want them to worry or to cause them stress. But they got the information not from me but from other sources. I even asked my nurses to post a big sign on my door: No Visitors Allowed.

Life after transplantation requires personal discipline, determination to eat only the proper food and drink daily at least 2.5 liters of water. I cannot eat again what I eat in the morning or whatever is left at breakfast or lunch. I am allowed to eat only freshly cooked food each meal.

I have to wear a mask inside and outside the house, and I am not allowed to mix with any crowd.

I gave a sufficient "token" to my kidney donor. And giving a "token" to a kidney donor may help solve poverty and even prostitution in our country.

Anyway, you cannot donate if you are not healthy and strong.

And we need only one healthy kidney to survive.

Before the operation, both patient and donor have to undergo a number of laboratory tests like tissue typing, cross-matching and X-rays so doctors can know if the kidney transplant can be done without any risk to the donor and patient.

There is nothing illegal, unethical or immoral in donating a kidney. So, I pray and hope that kidney donation will become widely accepted in the country and not be dreaded. According to statistics, a Filipino dies of kidney failure every hour.

I found out that there is probably an epidemic of kidney failures in our country because we eat a lot of salty food and we don't eat in moderation. We also lack exercise.

Leaving the hospital was probably the happiest moment of my life. It was like a dream come true.

I want to thank Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., Rep. Eleuterio R. Violago of Nueva Ecija, former Press Undersecretary Danny Gozo, Professors Domingo and Edna Mae Landicho, Ivar Gica and Mercy Antonio who went out of their way to help me during and after my operation.

I also want to thank many people in Australia, particularly my wife and children—Paul Oscar, Rosalyn and Lisa—and those in the Philippines, Japan, America, Canada and other countries who have long been praying for me.

When kidneys fail and kidney transplantation become necessary, it is better to have it as early as possible so you can lead a normal life again.

Oscar R. Landicho is a Filipino journalist in Australia whose work has been recognized in some awards.

THEY SAID

Law always wins

"It is really hard to go against what the law says. You will always lose."

—Former Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo on Supreme Court's ruling on the contract with Photokina

Not voluntarily

"No matter what fault may be attributed to the Lopezes, nobody can say that the Meralco and other deals between them and Marcos were done freely and voluntarily."

—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel belying claims by ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile that the Lopez family voluntarily sold their Meralco shares to the government

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Double taxation?

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THANK you for citing our side in your story "Parañaque seeks talk with MIAA." (PDI 10/7/02)

Indeed, we are going to the Supreme Court in this real estate tax row with the city to "preserve the territorial integrity" of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Being the final arbiter in questions of law, we deem the Supreme Court to be the correct forum. And we shall abide by whatever decision it shall hand down. By no means must this be construed though as a show of disrespect to the Court of Appeals.

We remain firm and steadfast in our belief that the NAIA is tax exempt: primarily on the essence of its being a government instrumentality that renders indispensable government functions, and secondarily, as mandated in its own Charter.

As a government instrumentality, whatever income derived there from is incidental thereto.

Further, a substantial portion of the income earned from the said operations goes to the national government coffers amounting to 20 percent of gross revenue. To our mind, imposing realty taxes would amount to double taxation.

The court case notwithstanding, we remain open to dialogues with all concerned parties.

—EDGARDO C. MANDA,
general manager
Manila International Airport Authority,
Ninoy Aquino Int'l Airport, Metro Manila

Roco posters approved by COA

THIS refers to a letter to the editor. (PDI, 9/24/02) The facts dispute the baseless accusations.

The posters informing the schools of the vision of the Department of Education, "Bawat Graduate, Bayani at Marangal," and then Education Secretary Raul S. Roco, was an authorized expenditure under DBM Circular No. 2001-1 dated 6 March 2001. This allowed the expenditure of public funds for communications, advertisements and publicity for a public purpose.

Malacañang had ordered the escalation of the distribution of the President's posters. The DepEd was also publicly criticized for not removing the posters of former President Estrada and his education secretary in public schools nationwide. Thus, DECS Memorandum No. 152, s. 2001 directed DECS offices and public schools to display the pictures of President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Secretary Roco. At that time, DepEd posters had not yet been printed.

The Audit Observation Memo of the former COA resident auditor was an observation on an expenditure and a request for a justification. After the DepEd explained the necessity of the posters as a communication tool and to encourage feedback from DepEd's millions of stakeholders, it accepted the explanation. It did not lead to a suspension which would have been the next step procedurally had the justification not been accepted. Thus, COA approved the expenditure and this is evident in its year-end Audit Report.

The facts speak for themselves.

—ELVIRA V. LIWANAG,
information officer,
Aksyon Demokratiko,
16th Flr. Strata 2000 Bldg.,
Emerald Ave., Pasig City

Why Jimenez is like Erap?

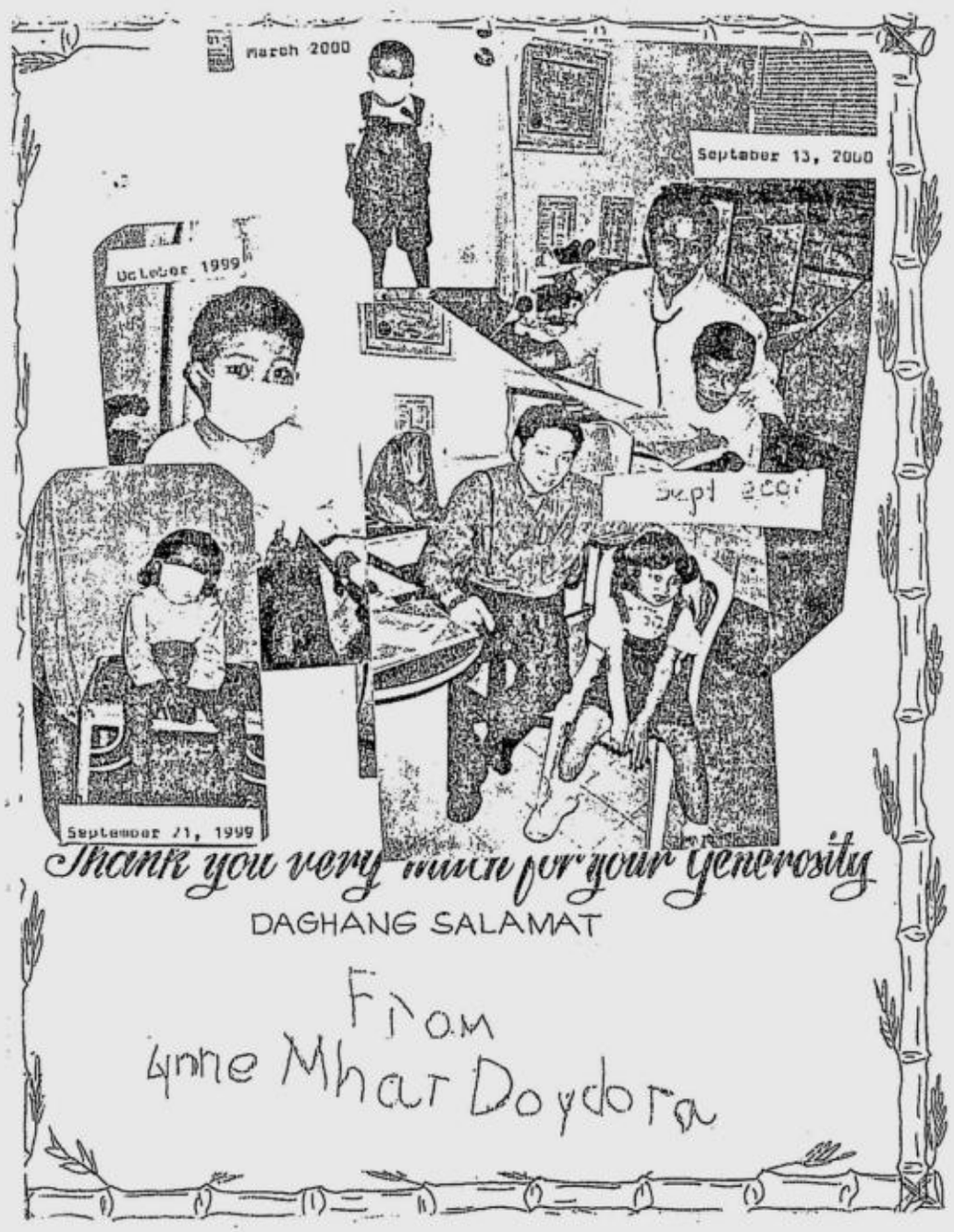
MARK Jimenez is like Joseph Estrada. Both men claim to be innocent, yet both do everything they can to avoid proving it.

An innocent man will push for a speedy trial to clear his name. And certainly would do so in the United States where I don't think anyone can question the impartiality of the courts.

As to his being a congressman and therefore somehow immune, I don't understand. Weren't the crimes he is accused of done before he became a congressman? Is there some kind of retroactive protection? Very strange.

I suggest Mr. Jimenez go to the United States and prove his innocence, so we can all get back to focusing on reviving a business environment much in need of administrative and legislative support.

—PETER WALLACE,
president, The Wallace Business Forum,
14/f Sagittarius Bldg.,
HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill.,
Makati City



Final appeal for help

ON SEPT. 24, 1999, my letter was published where I appealed for help from INQUIRER readers for the medicine my adopted granddaughter needed for the treatment of acute leukemia. After three years of chemotherapy, INQUIRER readers have continued to help with the medication needed and with prayers that give hope to all of us.

Lynn-Mhar Doydora, my adopted granddaughter who was 4 years old at the time she was diagnosed, is now is now 7 years old. She has survived three years chemotherapy and medication with the help and blessings of the Almighty God and the hearts He touched. She has four more months until January 2003 to complete her treatment—of course, if God wills it. So we are making this final appeal for help.

Allow us to thank the INQUIRER readers again for their generosity.

—EGDON E. EDURIA,
Xavier University,
Cagayan de Oro City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

On Philippine education and the national language

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

AS I read the article about our educational system; I found myself nodding my head in agreement with the assessment. Our educational system is in bad shape especially when one considers the text messages on cellular phones; those abbreviations makes a person dumb. Another thing I find totally deplorable is the use of "Taglish," I find that an insult to our native language. Either you speak straight Tagalog or straight English; but never mix those two languages. Even on TV you can see anchor people using Taglish, I call that the dumbing of Philippines.

While other countries like China teach their kids to learn and understand English, we are going backwards; we are teaching our kids Tagalog. How many school subjects are still in English? In my time, all subjects were in English; the only subject in Tagalog was my Filipino subject. We even had Latin and Spanish in high school. This is something in which leaders in education are greatly amiss.—**Leslie**

* * *

The arguments advanced are not too convincing. For my part, I still place the onus on the individual. He has a job to do and that is learning. Schools are regulated by the government so they must have a uniform standard of instructions. It will then be up to the consumer to get what he can from the company as an analogy. I do not accept the argument that moneyed people have the advantage because they can afford expensive private schools. It is not the schools' fault when students are not learning well. No amount of financial help will turn an inferior student around. A few surveys were done to show this fact; students continue to struggle after monetary blessings were endowed.—**Baroque**

* * *

I have to agree with Baroque on one point: the student is the one responsible for what he or she learns in school. I attended a public elementary school in our barrio. But I was a "driven" and motivated student so my uncle, who was the school principal, suggested to my parents that I be enrolled in a private school for secondary education. It's hard to tell. I suppose I would have flourished the same way had I stayed in public school.

I believe, however, that Catholic private schools do provide a more challenging and rigorous curriculum than public schools. During my last visit, I sat with my nephew, who attends kindergarten at St. Joseph's Catholic School in our town, while doing his homework. I must say that I was impressed with his workbooks. I happily reported to my sister in NJ (who pays for my nephew's tuition) about his progress in school.

Unfortunately, Taglish is how the new generation communicates in the Philippines. But I was pleasantly surprised to hear my nephew talk in English. He converses in simple English like: Yes, Auntie; Why is that Auntie?; Where are we going today? To draw a sharp contrast, my niece (1st grade student) who attends public school did not speak to me in English while I was visiting. But I think she was just shy.—**Inday**

* * *

If we are going backwards just because we resort to promoting our own language can you explain why the Japanese, Germans, French, Chinese and Koreans for that matter were able to develop their own advance technologies and became rich even without a mastery of the English language? They just study English in order to sell what they've developed for the global market. For us Filipinos it's not the same. We are taught English to become exported slaves in these countries. We are the preferred servants because of our better knowledge of English. But did it help our country become better or at par with the world? What I noticed in our homeland is that when someone can communicate well in English they think that they are superior to their fellow men. It has become a stupid gauge of one's IQ level even if those who know the language have none.—**Pugsy**

* * *

Teach Cebuano or Tagalog as the primary language and teach English or Spanish as foreign languages for those planning careers that require English or Spanish. You probably know that there are many communities in the United States that function very well without the need for English. Most Japanese and Chinese cannot speak a single sentence in English but they are proficient in Japanese and Mandarin respectively. Filipinos must first become proficient in their own language before mastering another language.—**Sulung**

* * *

I can't figure out why these education ministers would like to deprive the general public with the ability to speak in a well-recognized international language.

Our educational system here in the Philippines reminds me of the evil Phol Pot had done in Laos and Cambodia! The killing fields were not only for those who opposed the Khmer Rouge but also for those intellectuals whose educational and intellectual experience had to be expunged from Khmer society in order to bring the region back into the dark ages of human existence! Control would then be easy to further the interests of their twisted ideological beliefs! Regression is the goal of those people!

Filipino, more popularly known as Tagalog, may be good for domestic politics but it is being carried too far that it becomes a hindrance to progress rather than a way to progress!—**Gurami**

Bus firms violating Senior Citizens Law

BUS companies, particularly those servicing provincial routes, violate RA 7432 or the Senior Citizens Law.

On a recent trip back to Naga City with my wife and a son, I saw such disregard for the law first-hand. When the bus conductor asked for our destination, my wife and I showed our ID cards and we were issued bus tickets showing the amount of P68 (which should have been P54.40, less the 20 percent discount we were entitled to). My son, a teenager, and I were charged the same fare. We found out later that other senior citizens bound for Naga were also charged the same fare.

How long has this blatant circumvention of the Senior Citizens Law been going on? Is this being done only by bus conductors or are the bus operators in cahoots with the bus conductors? Is this also being done in Metro Manila buses?

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA,
J.P. Rizal St., Barangay Camambugan,
4600 Daet, Camarines Norte

Something for everyone

THIS is not a criticism, but rather just an observation.

The "Almost a mistress" self portrait in the Sept. 26 "Youngblood" was a well-written look at a problem that seems so common here, as compared to the United States, at least among educated, younger women of ages 18 to 25.

What strikes me as odd is that in the United States you wouldn't expect to see this sort of soul-searching piece in the "op-ed" section. Maybe this would appear in a "2bu" section, and for sure in magazines aimed at those who are in the age of consent like Teen. But not in a "sophisticated" magazine like New Woman. In the latter, you will find no soul-searching, only a lot of "how to" or "the advantages of" pieces.

I think it's good that the Filipinas still have role models (parents) to guide them, whereas in the United States it's more like role model (singular), that at least one of the parents "messed up." Right, wrong or indifferent, it "says" that the foreverness of marriage is situational, open to interpretation, and affairs tend to breed in a "reality" like that or at least you're not going to be "banned in Boston" and forced to wear a scarlet letter on your forehead for the rest of your life. In the United States, affairs with married people are as common as among singles. Aside from the gossip angle, it's just no big deal.

The INQUIRER's role, then, is providing "something for everyone," and that's good. As out of place as it may seem to me (op-ed), this kind of story was able to reach a very large audience because you gave it space. Being published in the INQUIRER gave it the credibility that lifted it above the "true confessions" level that tabloid journalism is known for. Nice work, INQUIRER.

—ELLIOTT ANDERSON,
Pan-ay Clarin,
Misamis Occidental 7201

Respect the beliefs and values of others

THIS refers to the article entitled "Blacklist Saudi, bishops urge" which was published by your paper last Sept. 25, 2002.

The article said that "the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has asked the government to stop the deployment of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia and other countries with "bad human rights records."

It pains me to react to the statement but with due respect to the source of that statement, I find it a must to do so for the sake of clarity.

Herein are my rejoinders, viz:

1. The Holy Qur'an is the source of all laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia including those of its justice system. Believing that what is in the Holy Qur'an are the words of Allah (Almighty God), no power on earth could change those Qur'anic injunctions about human rights and justice system.

2. Our Filipino partners started arriving in Saudi Arabia in the early 1970s, and after 30 years, some 3-5 million overseas Filipino workers have worked in the Kingdom at one time or another, and still around 900,000 are presently deployed there. In these last three decades, billions of dollars have been remitted to the families of these OFWs. Thousands of these OFWs keep returning to Saudi Arabia for the simple reason that they are happy with the Saudi systems, including its justice system.

3. Death penalty, the highest penalty given to criminals who committed heinous crimes, is not unknown to the Western world and the Asean countries, including the Philippines.

4. Lastly, if one's concept of justice and human rights should be the criteria by which other people's cultures and values are to be judged, there will be no peace and harmony in this world. It is by respecting other people's belief and values that there will be understanding and cooperation among peoples of diverse culture.

—SALEH MOH'D AL-GHAMDI,
ambassador,
Embassy of Saudi Arabia,
Manila

Bilibid squatters are still there

MY congratulations to the INQUIRER for their vigilance in reporting corruption in high places, the more recent of which is the shenanigans in the Public Estates Authority. Allow me, however, to clarify some points, and perhaps straighten some facts on Mr. Neal Cruz's column on the PEA and the Bilibid Prison's deal published last Sept. 30, 2002.

First, no payments were ever made to the residents in the Bilibid Prisons compound. Neither were they relocated. The truth is that no relocation ever happened. The so-called residents never left the area and are still there. The INQUIRER run a banner story on this controversy in its March 30, 1998 issue. It is really a wonder where the P1-billion went.

On reports that the people are living in and around the Bilibid Prisons compound were against the development and commercialization of the area, the fact is that they were supportive of development. What they do not favor is the lack of consultation and the haste in which residents, some of whom are businessmen, were to be evicted. May I refer to you again in your March 30, 1998 story, which detailed their sentiments.

—MR. ANTONIO M. CAYETANO,
barangay chairman,
310 Zone 13 3rd District,
Sta. Cruz, Manila

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US soldiers in Kuwait engage in new shooting

KUWAIT CITY—US forces in Kuwait were caught up in a new shooting on Wednesday as authorities here rounded up suspected accomplices of two Kuwaiti gunmen who killed a US marine in an attack the day before.

US soldiers opened fire when their "force protection was threatened" north of Kuwait City, said a source at Camp Doha where US forces are based, north of Kuwait City.

A US defense official in Washington identified the target as a civilian vehicle.

"The incident occurred on route 80," a road north of Kuwait City, the source at Camp Doha said.

The soldiers had "left Camp Doha in their training vehicle and were heading to a training area north of the city and north of Mutlaa," an area where exercises are being conducted.

The incident happened a day after two Kuwaiti assailants killed a US marine and wounded another participating in "Eager Mace 2002" wargames on Kuwait's Failaka island before being gunned down.

"Force protection is important to us," the source said. "It's never our intention to be disruptive for the Kuwaiti populace." Asked if anyone was injured, the source said this was "being investigated."

In Washington, a defense official told AFP that a US soldier in a military vehicle, a Humvee, had shot at a civilian vehicle after being threatened with a firearm by one of its occupants at around 7:00 p.m.

"The occupants of the Humvee shot and hit the hood of the civilian vehicle, forcing it off the road," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Humvee continued on its way without stopping.

Kuwait said earlier Wednesday it was rounding up groups suspected of assisting the two young gunmen on Failaka, in what both the emirate and United States described as a "terrorist act." Kuwaiti authorities named the assailants as Anas Ahmad Ibrahim al-Kandari, 21, and Jassem Hamad Mubarak al-Hajeri, 26. *AFP*

RELATIVES and friends carry the body of one of two Kuwaiti assailants, who attacked US Marines, during their funeral in Sulaibekhat cemetery, 10km north of Kuwait City, Oct. 9. Anas Ahmad Ibrahim al-Kandari, 21, and Jassem Mubarak al-Hajeri, 26, attacked US Marines yesterday conducting exercises Oct. 8 on the Kuwaiti island of Failaka, killing one and wounding another, before being killed themselves. AFP

Fire from Israel tanks kills 2 Palestinian boys

GAZA CITY—Two Palestinian boys were killed by fire from Israeli tanks and dozens more youths wounded Wednesday, as the army showed no sign of easing its operations in Gaza despite repeated US calls for restraint.

While taking some steps to appease mounting criticism from US President George W. Bush, who is seeking calm on the Israeli-Palestinian front as he prepares for a possible war on Iraq, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon remained defiant.

In the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah, tanks escorting bulldozers demolishing Palestinian houses along the Israeli-controlled border with Egypt opened fire and killed a Palestinian teenager, medical sources said.

A crowd of angry stone-throwers which gathered following the incident was targeted by another burst of heavy machine-gun fire from the tanks that killed a second boy, the sources said.

About 20 youths were wounded in the incident, 10 of them seriously, only two days after a deadly army raid into the nearby town of Khan Yunis that killed 16 Palestinians, mainly civilians, and drew international condemnation.

Monday's operation which included tanks, bulldozers and helicopters, met with severe reprobation from the White House, where Sharon is due to hold talks next week, and sparked Palestinian fears of a reoccupation of Gaza.

Sharon shrugged off Washington's "deep concern" and said his raids would continue, qualifying Monday's pre-dawn operation as a "success" in hitting militants from the radical Islamic group Hamas in their Khan Yunis bastion.

In further Gaza violence, Israeli fire ripped through a school in Khan Yunis on Wednesday, injuring eight Palestinians, including four schoolboys, Palestinian security sources said.

An Israeli, meanwhile, died of his gunshot wounds from a Palestinian attack Tuesday on a car near the West Bank town of Hebron that was claimed by Hamas in revenge for the Khan Yunis killings.

Despite the freeze in Israeli-Palestinian contacts and unabated violence on the ground, an upbeat EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said in Cairo he was trying to revive the peace process.

"We are going to continue working and try to see how to get the peace process in the Middle East started, and we have something going on in the coming weeks," Solana said after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In a bid to appease international ire over its operations in the occupied territories, the Israeli army moved to demolish unauthorized outposts built by Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

At least two unoccupied outposts were dismantled near Nablus on the orders of Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, who reportedly plans to proceed with the demolition of up to 30 such sites, including some which are inhabited.

But the main Israeli anti-settlement group dismissed the move as a PR ploy.

"Peace Now is not satisfied with the symbolic—and high profile—dismantling of a few uninhabited caravans. There are over 100 illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank," it said.

The leading voice of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza vowed to oppose Ben Eliezer's moves.

The Settlers' Council said it would "fight with all democratic, political and public means at its disposal to oppose" the dismantling of outposts. But it also called on settlers not to clash with soldiers. *AFP*

Washington sniper leaves message for police

ROCKVILLE, Md.—The sniper who has killed six people and wounded two in the Washington area reportedly left a Tarot card with the message "Dear Policeman, I am God"

near one of the shootings, but investigators on Wednesday angrily refused to discuss evidence leaked to the media.

The sniper reportedly left the message on a Tarot "Death" card not far from where a 13-year-old student was critically injured in a shooting near Benjamin Tasker Middle School on Monday.

Investigators reportedly recovered a shell casing in woods near the school, but would not discuss any evidence, including the card, which was leaked to the media.

Police Chief Charles Moose of Montgomery County, Maryland, reacted angrily when asked about the reported message. "Someone in the team, someone on the law enforcement community has done something I find very inappropriate. It indicates that I don't have control of the team," he said.

"We're going to forget about that issue and continue with the investigation, that's the best thing to do," Moose added, saying he would be surprised if a break came from the card.

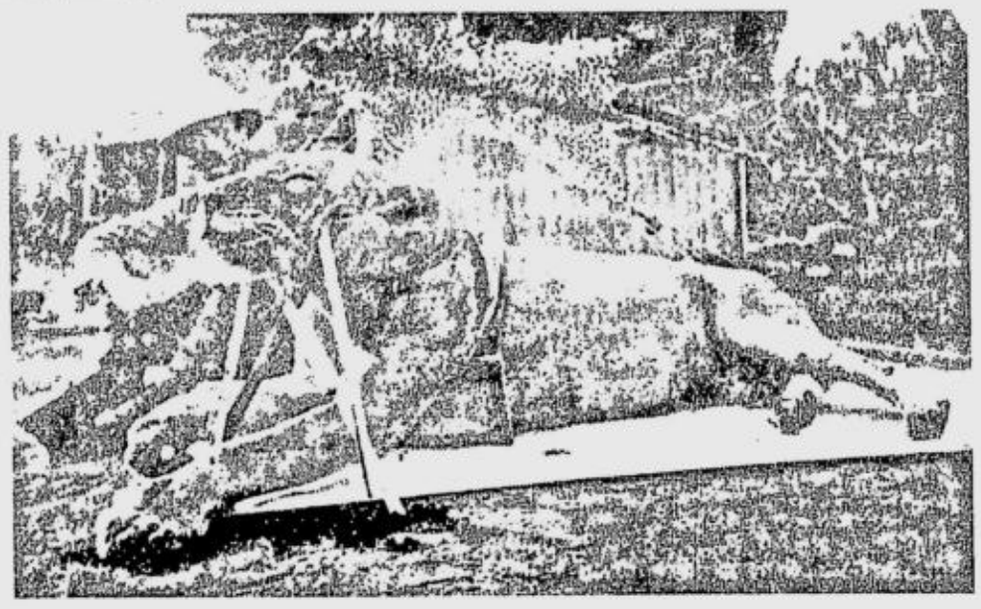
A man was taken into custody for shooting rounds inside a home in Montgomery County on Wednesday afternoon, but Moose said it was too early to link the incident to the string of shootings that has shaken the Washington area.

"It is certainly much too early in the process to make any yes or no with regards to anything being related to our situation," the chief told reporters.

Nobody was hurt in the home shooting and Moose added, "To the best of my knowledge no one was targeted."

Police had not yet filed charges, Moose said.

At an earlier briefing, the chief told reporters the investigation "continued to unfold," but offered few details about how police work was progressing in finding the killer. *Reuters*



END OF A GHOST REUTERS

Lt. Col. John Patterson sits next to one of the two infamous man-eating Tsavo lions that he hunted down and killed in 1898-99. Patterson said the pair of lions, known then as "Ghost" and "Darkness," killed more than 130 railway workers in Kenya and eluded him for months.

Director of Muslim charity in US linked to terrorists

CHICAGO—The executive director of a US-based Muslim charity was indicted Wednesday for allegedly funneling money to Islamist terrorist groups, five months after he was originally detained by US authorities.

Enaam Arnaout channeled cash to al-Qaida, the mujahideen in Chechnya and Muslim guerrillas in Bosnia over a 10-year period using the Illinois-based charity, Benevolence International Foundation, as a front, according to the indictment.

The hijacked charitable donations paid for anti-mine boots and an X-ray machine for the Chechen mujahideen, and a satellite phone for the Hezb-e-Islami in Afghanistan as well as other logistical support, according to US authorities.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft said the criminal indictment—the first to stem from the US government's post-September 11 crackdown on US-based Muslim charities—underlined the United States' determination to go after the money men who bankroll international terrorists.

"There is no moral distinction between those who carry out terrorist attacks and those who finance terrorist attacks," he said. "We will find the sources of terrorist blood money, we will shut down these sources, and we will ensure that both terrorists and their financiers meet the same, swift, certain justice of the United States of America."

Arnaout faces up to 90 years in jail, without the possibility of parole, if convicted on the charges of money laundering, fraud and conspiracy to racketeer.

The 40-year-old Syrian-born US citizen is currently in administrative detention in a Chicago correctional center, where he has been held since he was arrested April 30 on perjury charges in connection with a civil suit he brought against the US government. *AFP*

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Bush gains Democratic backing for Iraq measure

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush gained important new Democratic support for his war resolution, bolstering his expected margin of victory in Congress for broad authority to use force against Iraq. But the administration was having less success on the international front.

A 25-minute phone call between Bush and French President Jacques Chirac failed to produce a breakthrough over wording of a new UN Security Council resolution to disarm Saddam Hussein. "This is intricate diplomacy and we are continuing our consultations," said White House spokesperson Sean McCormack.

The US Congress debated a resolution giving Bush authority to use US force against Iraq—with or without UN participation.

The White House cited a new CIA assessment—suggesting Saddam might launch terrorist attacks if he concluded a US military attack was inevitable—as further justification for strengthening the president's hand. Opponents used the same document to argue against a US first strike.

But more Democrats closed ranks with the Republican president and leaders of both parties predicted congressional passage by week's end. A final vote in the House was expected Thursday.

Despite Bush's call for a quick UN resolution, the five veto-wielding members of the Security Council remained divided on whether to authorize military action if Iraq does not comply with UN weapons inspectors.

The United States and Britain have demanded a green light to attack Iraq in case it blocks inspectors again. France, Russia and China insist Saddam should first be given a chance to cooperate.

McCormack, the White House spokesperson, said that Bush stressed in his phone call with Chirac that the stronger the UN resolution, "the more likely this matter can be resolved peacefully."

In Paris, Chirac spokesperson Catherine Colonna said the French president was open to strengthening the powers of UN weapons inspectors in Iraq—but still could not accept making military recourse an automatic response should they be hampered.

Secretary of State Colin Powell stood fast by the administration's position. "There must be consequences for failure to comply," he told CNN's Larry King. "And if those consequences include going to war, then I hope the international community will understand the importance of us doing this as an international community." *AP*

DOUBLE TEN DAY AP

Taiwan's military honor guard marches in formation during the island's National Day celebrations, Oct. 10, in Taipei. National Day, also called Double Ten Day because it's held on Oct. 10, is a celebration of the 1911 establishment of the Republic of China, the official name Taiwan still uses.

Al-Qaida targeting Australia, says expert

SYDNEY—A terrorism expert who interviewed captured members of the al-Qaida network says the group has trained militants to attack Australia and may already have dispatched a cell of fighters to the country.

"A number of al-Qaida members were tasked to enter Australia for the purpose of destroying targets inside Australia," Rohan Gunaratna told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in remarks broadcast Thursday.

Gunaratna said his discussions with captured al-Qaida fighters indicated two or three members of the group may already be in Australia, but he was unable to say what their targets might be.

"The Australian government does not perceive there to be a significant threat to Australia at this moment. And I believe that assessment is wrong," he said in an interview for ABC television's Lateline program.

"The Australian government should do whatever is possible to detect those al-Qaida members who have been tasked to enter Australia," he said.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he had seen no evidence to back up Gunaratna's warning of imminent danger.

"Australia is more at risk now than we were before Sept. 11 last year, but so is just about every other country," he said.

"Nobody should imagine that this country is immune to potential terrorist attacks. But I have not received any evidence of a general kind in recent months suggesting that the risk had become markedly greater," he said.

Gunaratna, author of the book "Inside al-Qaida," said his information clearly indicated al-Qaida's southeast Asian network, Jemaah Islamiyah, had support cells operating in Australia.

His warning came two days after a message purporting to come from a top al-Qaida leader warned the group was planning a new wave of attacks on the United States and its close allies.

The threat came in a broadcast recording which the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television identified as the voice of Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden's top lieutenent.

"America and her allies must know that their crimes will not pass without punishment," the voice said on the tape. *AFP*

Ex-Iran president: Iraq is scorpion, US a python

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran's former President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iraq was a scorpion undeserving of support and the United States a python that seeks to dominate the energy-rich Gulf region, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday.

"We feel compassion for the people of Iraq. Iran and most of the world's countries have no inclination to support the Iraqi government. But can we turn to a python to repel the menace of a scorpion?" Rafsanjani was quoted by IRNA as saying.

Rafsanjani accused the United States of wanting to dominate energy resources in the region and retake the weapons of mass destruction the West gave Iraq during the 1980-88 with Iran.

Also Wednesday, visiting British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw admitted mistakes in the way the West dealt with Iraq.

"What we should do is learn from our mistakes," Straw told a press conference.

"This (efforts to disarm Saddam) is not about oil. It is about international law and the threat to the region," Straw added.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, after a meeting with Straw, also blamed the West for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"Is dictatorship a problem confined to Iraq and is the fear today about the application of chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction? Who helped Iraq to acquire chemical weapons?" state-run Tehran radio quoted Khatami as saying.

Straw arrived in Tehran Wednesday seeking to allay Iran's fears on the consequences of a US military action to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Rafsanjani, who was addressing clerics Wednesday, said Iran supported the US in its anti-terror Afghan war but Washington, instead of recognizing Iran's contribution, criticized it. *AP*

Pakistanis vote in first general polls since coup

ISLAMABAD—Pakistanis voted on Thursday in the first general election since General Pervez Musharraf seized power in a coup, but critics said that despite pledges to restore civilian rule he would retain ultimate control.

Voting began slowly in the capital in a poll contested by 83 parties—including one widely seen as supporting Musharraf—but from which the exiled leaders of the political mainstream have been excluded.

There was a little more activity in the sprawling southern city of Karachi, with early voters split between several of the different parties contesting the election.

"I won't tell you who I am voting for, but I'll vote for an honest man," said banker Ghani Haider. "Not all the politicians are bad, and I think this time people will vote for a change."

Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, has been fiercely criticized by political opponents and independent observers for seeking to manipulate the poll in his favor to produce a compliant 342-seat national assembly.

The general, who has become a key US ally in the war on terror, has promised to hand over full executive powers to the new prime minister, but he says he will maintain a supervisory role with the power to dismiss parliament.

A PAKISTANI woman casts her ballot in Rawalpindi Oct. 10. REUTERS

Opinion polls showed a pro-Musharraf faction of the Pakistan Muslim League, the PML(QA), was running neck and neck with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of exiled former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, one of Musharraf's fiercest critics.

But the election has failed to capture the public's imagination in a country largely disillusioned with its political leaders and where turnout was just 34.4 percent in the last elections in 1997.

"It is not worth voting," said Abdul Razzaq, a laborer from the northern Swat Valley waiting for work on the streets of Islamabad. "We used to get paid between 100 and 500 rupees ($1.70 to $8.50) to go home and vote, but now no one is paying us anything."

In the city of Rawalpindi, queues formed outside several polling stations as officials took their time to seal the ballot boxes and open the stations, to the frustration of many voters.

"If we had a religious government people would get up early to say their prayers, and everything would start on time," said Bashir Ahmed. "It is a lack of religion which is causing all this unpunctuality." *Reuters*

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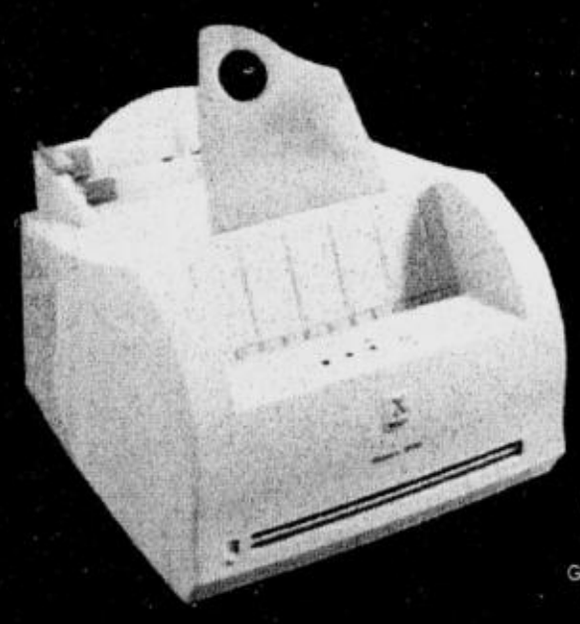

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EU opens its door to 10 ex-communist states

BRUSSELS—Europe took a stride towards unification on Wednesday when 10 countries were given the green light to complete EU entry talks, but uncertainties remain over an Irish referendum and the unresolved division of Cyprus.

Thirteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the European Commission said 10 mainly former communist eastern states were ready to join the 15-nation European Union in 2004 in what will be the bloc's biggest enlargement.

They are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Cyprus and Malta, most of which have undergone a decade of wrenching social and economic upheaval to become modern market democracies.

The Brussels EU executive pledged to help less advanced aspirants Bulgaria and Romania meet their aim of entry in 2007.

But despite US pressure, it did not propose a date for opening negotiations with Turkey because the biggest candidate still falls short of the political criteria on human rights, provoking disappointment and anger in Ankara.

"Enlargement is a historic opportunity to unify our continent and to ensure peace, stability and democracy in Europe. That goal is now within reach," European Commission President Romano Prodi told a news conference after unveiling annual progress reports on the 13 candidates.

Prodi and Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verheugen said the enlargement project could be threatened if Irish voters voted "No" on Oct. 19 in a repeat referendum on the Nice Treaty, designed to adapt EU institutions for up to 27 members.

Prodi said that would be "a disaster scenario." Verheugen told reporters: "If the Treaty of Nice is rejected in Ireland again, then I do not know how we can continue with enlargement, I do not even know whether we can continue."

The latest opinion poll from Dublin suggested the prophecies of doom may not be tested. A telephone survey for Citigroup bank showed 44 percent in favor, 22 percent against with 27 percent undecided.

East European hopefuls hailed the Commission's judgment that they would be ready to join the wealthy bloc in 2004 as another milestone on the road to a united Europe and pledged to remedy remaining deficiencies pinpointed by Brussels. *Reuters*

US, Japanese, Swiss scientists share Nobel Prize for Chemistry

STOCKHOLM—A trio of American, Japanese and Swiss scientists on Wednesday won the 2002 Nobel Chemistry Prize for turning chemical biology into a powerful tool against diseases such as Alzheimer's, mad cow and some of the deadliest forms of cancer.

John Fenn of the United States, Koichi Tanaka of Japan and Kurt Wuethrich of Switzerland helped create the new science of proteomics—the study of how proteins, the stuff of life, interact with other substances in the cell, which is the likely basis for the next generation of super-drugs based on the human genome.

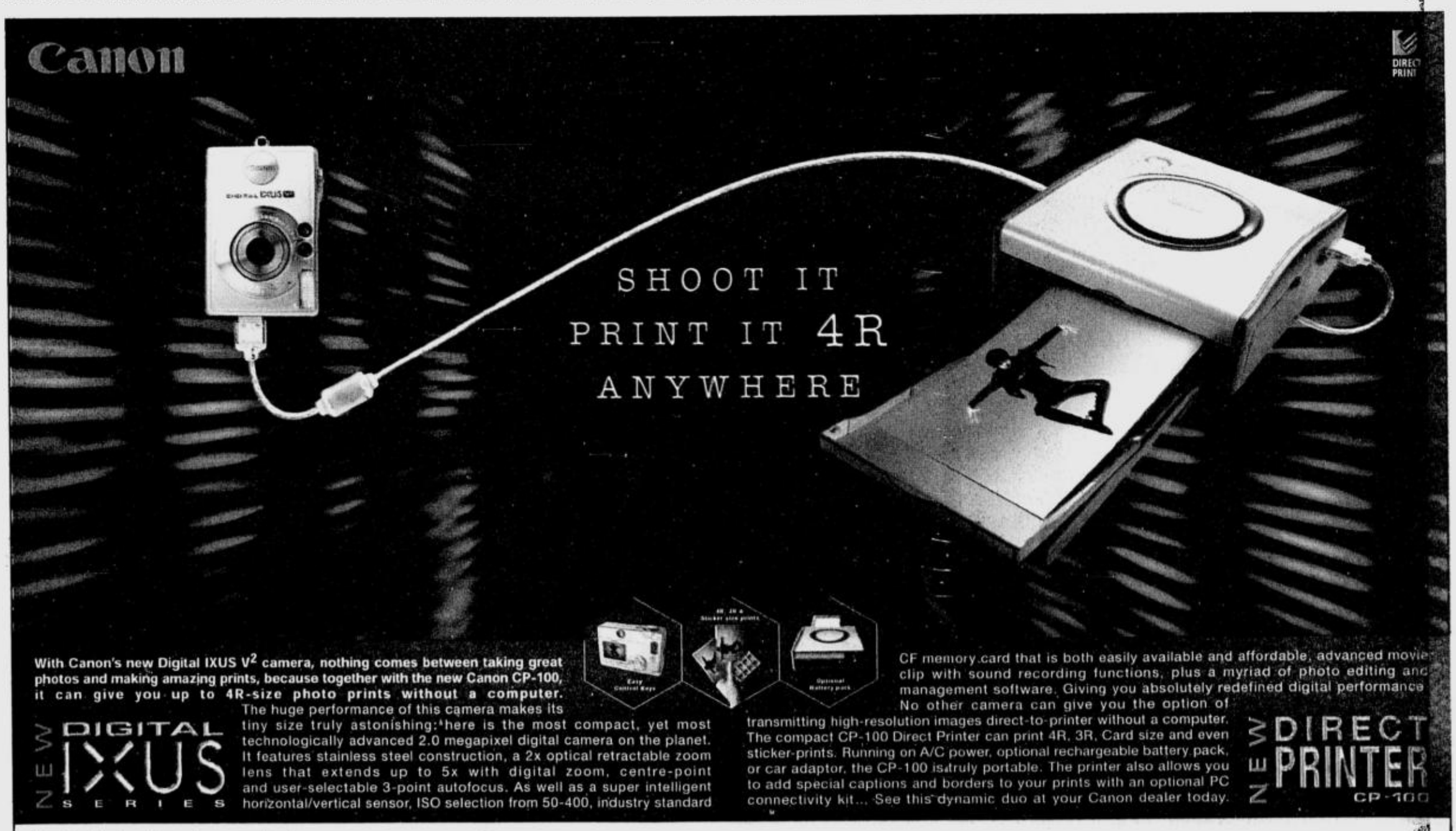
This field of research has exploded in the past few years, with enormous implications for the pharmaceutical industry as the early-testing stage of new drugs is speeded up.

It has shed light on the origins of diseases such as Alzheimer's, mad cow disease, malaria and ovarian, breast and prostate cancer, and has facilitated foodstuff controls.

"Chemists can discover cancer faster than doctors can," the Nobel jury said.

As the gene sequences of more and more organisms are mapped, researchers are looking at the relationship between gene codes and different proteins.

Fenn and Tanaka were lauded for making advances in the late 1980s in mass spectrometry, the means of identifying a molecule based on its mass because even the largest proteins are too small to be studied with a microscope. *AFP*



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Polls drive wedge between John O, son

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Politics has again divided the powerful Osmeña family in Cebu.

The relationship between Sen. John Osmeña and his son, Cebu Vice Gov. John Gregory turned bitter when the senator declared his opposition to his son's bid to run for governor in the 2004 elections.

The senator has said he would prefer to support the candidacy of his estranged younger brother, former Gov. Lito Osmeña, whom he said was more competent to run the province.

He said in an interview over radio station dyHP that he would prefer that his son run for congressman instead.

"If I were to run for congressman, what district would I be running? Dad wants me to run for Congress. *Ambot lang kung ngano* (I just don't know why)?," Vice Governor Osmeña said.

He said he could not also do what his father wanted because it would hurt the members of the Alayon Party which is fielding candidates for congressmen in their respective districts. The Alayon is a regional party headed by the senator.

Vice Governor Osmeña remained firm in his decision to pursue his political plans, with or without his father's support.

"I'd like to think that he's proud of me but he's not. I will still push forward for my candidacy," he said.

"I am his son. I am his only son. My only sin is having my own mind and my own will and not doing exactly what he says," he added.

Lito Osmeña, for his part, declined to comment on the reported rift, saying the father and son should settle their differences between themselves.

In a recent interview over a cable TV talk show, Lito Osmeña said he was interested to run again for governor. But, he added, there was no way that two Osmeñas would be vying for the gubernatorial post.

Vice Governor Osmeña said he was surprised over his father's endorsement of Lito Osmeña because he did not know that his father and his uncle had already patched up.

He added that he thought that everything was okay between him and his father when he visited the senator on Monday at the Makati Medical Center where he was to undergo surgery to remove gallstones.

When he got back to Cebu, he added, he was surprised to read in the local newspapers that his father was opposed to his gubernatorial bid.

The vice governor, 32 years old, said he was saddened that his father found him too young and inexperienced to run for governor.

But, he added, his father should not question his qualifications to run the province.

"What other qualifications is he looking for? I am not wet under the ears. I got a good track record at the Capitol," the vice governor said.

The younger Osmeña was elected board member in 1998 before he ran for vice governor in 2001.

MAJOR EXPORT EDWIN BACASMAS

The weight of tuna on their backs, workers take turns to have the fish weighed at a port in General Santos City, the country's major tuna exporter.

Army says report of reb kid's abduction fiction

By Joey A. Gabieta and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Fiction. This was how Major Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commander of the Army's 8th Infantry Division, described the allegations of militant groups that they were holding hostage the daughter of an alleged ranking rebel leader to force him to surrender.

"(To) further comment on this fiction will only appear to dignify it . . . and amounts to insulting the public's intelligence," he said in a text message to the INQUIRER yesterday morning.

Dominguez refused to take calls from the INQUIRER from his mobile phone. But in text messages, he said he personally checked the alleged "abduction" of Rosa Guadiana, 18, from existing files and with units concerned.

But, he added, "nothing and nobody could confirm the incident being described."

Rosa is the daughter of Abdias Guadiana, a consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF) panel in the peace negotiations with the government. He is allegedly a ranking rebel leader in Eastern Visayas.

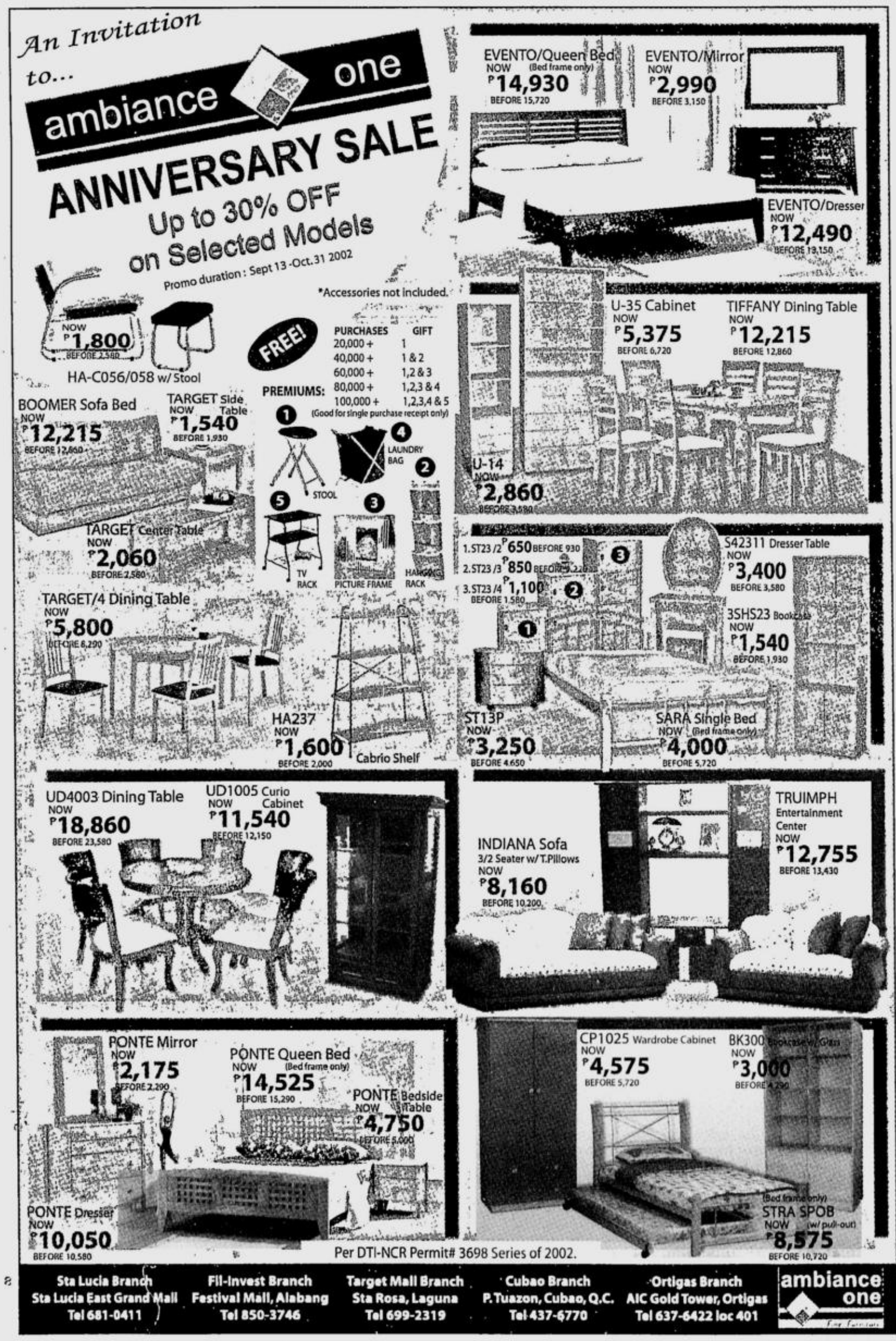
Rosa has been missing since Aug. 22 and is believed to have been "held hostage" by members of the 8th ID based in Camp Lukban, Barangay Maulong, Catbalogan town, Samar.

According to an NDF statement, Rosa was last seen boarding an Eagle Star bus in Catarman town, Northern Samar to Catbalogan.

Human rights groups and the family of the missing daughter of an alleged rebel leader in the Visayas will aske the Commission on Human Rights to investigate the case.

Dani Beltran, national deputy secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan, said the family of Rosa will file a complaint tomorrow before the Commission on Human Rights.

"We need more than a statement by whoever is this accusing the Army based on an unverified report . . . " said Dominguez. "Lest we forget, it is the NPA terrorists that are into this kind of criminality."



Bulacan told to brace for more rebel attacks

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz was advised to take the "necessary precautionary security measures" after the New People's Army accused her and other local officials of conniving with the military and the police in violating human rights and in illegal quarrying.

The advisory also applies to all elected officials in Central Luzon, according to Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, regional police director, who last week placed the Philippine National Police in Bulacan and six other provinces on full alert.

Two supposed statements from the NPA's eastern Bulacan guerrilla front, released by Calderon on Thursday to reporters, were a press release and a leaflet pertaining to two incidents.

In the first statement, dated Oct. 1, the NPA claimed responsibility for the Sept. 30 attack on the PNP's 306th Province Mobile Group (PMG) headquarters in San Rafael town.

In the leaflet, which was undated, the same guerrilla front admitted being behind the burning of quarry equipment owned by Angat Mayor Leonardo de Leon, Board Member Teofilo Rivera and several businessmen in the town last Sept. 25.

The statements, both written in Filipino, separately claimed the assaults as forms of revolutionary punishment.

"This was done in response to the complaints of residents about the abuses and human rights violations of the PMG led by executioner (*berdugo*) Col. Fernando Villanueva and with the connivance of Gov. Josie de la Cruz," the press statement said, referring to the Sept. 30 raid on the detachment.

In the leaflet, the rebels printed in bold letters the name of the governor to explain her role and that of the local and national governments, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Armed Forc es and the PNP in "bureaucrat-capitalism that was a feature of the country's semi-colonial and semi-feudal state."

They said officials have used their political power to earn profits from quarrying that has caused flooding and damaged the residents' source of potable water.

Without referring to anyone, the NPA accused bureaucrats of "maintaining their hold on power through businesses that were run like Mafia and syndicates."

The NPA also decried claims by local officials that their businesses had the blessing and support of the guerrillas.

It warned that it would "punish any element that denigrates the reputation of the revolutionary movement."

Calderon and Senior Supt. Roberto Damian, chief of the regional police operations, said the statements were authentic even as reporters noted these did not bear the official NPA seal and the names of their spokespersons.

Calderon said the NPA released the statements days before the rebels struck in San Rafael and Angat towns. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Policeman, 3 others killed as speeding bus hits jeep

PANIQUI, Tarlac—Four persons, including an anti-narcotics agent, were killed while two policemen were injured in a three-vehicle collision along the MacArthur Highway in Barangay Cariño here on Wednesday night.

Among those killed were anti-narcotics agent PO2 Serafin Artisona and civilian police assets Ernesto Bustillos and Potenciano de la Cruz.

Artisona and the two police assets were on their way to their headquarters in Tarlac in a locally assembled jeep after arresting drug suspect Edna Gatchalian when an Ilocos Norte-bound Partas Bus swerved to the southbound lane while trying to avoid another bus that suddenly stopped to unload its passengers.

The bus then hit the agents' jeep and the van that was following it, police said.

Also killed in the three-vehicle collision was Fernando Pascua, who was driving the van, an Isuzu, that was following the jeep carrying the anti-narcotics policemen and the two assets.

Injured were Gatchalian and two other policemen identified as SPO1 Francisco Cabiao and PO2 Antonio Barceras.

Cabiao and Barceras are now confined at the St. Rose Hospital here while Gatchalian is undergoing treatment at the Central Luzon Doctors Hospital in Tarlac City. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

No suspension for Braganza

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission dismissed a request by agrarian reform employees to suspend Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza for alleged graft.

Violeta Bonilla, head of the Department of Agrarian Reform Employees Association, sought Braganza's suspension but the PAGC said the request had no merit.

"The commission is of the view that there is no necessity for placing respondent under preventive suspension," the PAGC said in a ruling on the request.

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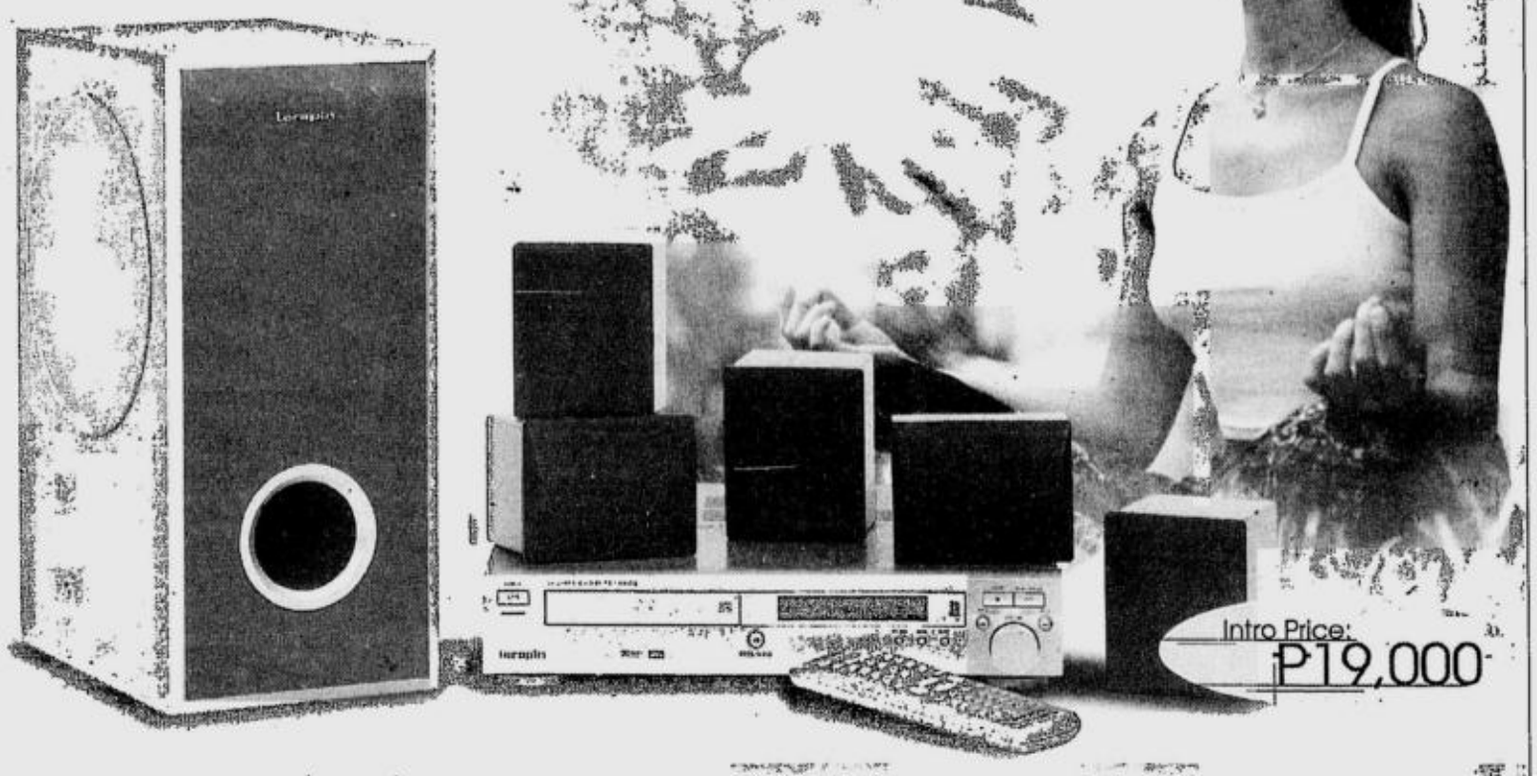

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Pneumonia Iloilo top killer, say statistics

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Pneumonia, along with other preventable diseases, is the top killer in Iloilo province, more than the violence caused by thugs, bandits, insurgents and more than vehicular accidents.

Records from the Provincial Health Office showed that pneumonia is the top cause of deaths last year, claiming 1,990 lives or nearly seven times the record for accidents and injuries, which ranked eighth and ninth.

Tuberculosis, which is curable, ranked fifth, claiming 566 lives. The figure was nearly twice the number of deaths from accidents, which totaled 306 for the same period.

Provincial health officer Carmen Bayate said pneumonia has befallen 125 out of every 200,000 persons in the province.

She said the statistics on deaths and sicknesses, which she presented to reporters and Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas, would be used to improve the delivery of health services in the province.

Diseases that are associated with unhealthy lifestyles and habits are also among the top 10 killers in the province.

But hypertension is a poor second to pneumonia, claiming 768 lives, followed by heart-related diseases 754 (third) and cancer, 647 (fourth).

The other diseases that made it to the list are septicemia, 244; kidney diseases, 194 and diabetes, 104. Accidents claimed the lives of 306 persons.

Bayate said almost all of the top killer diseases—pneumonia, hypertension, heart diseases, and tuberculosis can be prevented through proper hygiene, diet, exercise and sanitation. If detected early, they can be cured.

She said early detection of cancer also helps in arresting the growth of the tumor and in prolonging life.

The province has a population of 1.7 million. Iloilo province runs one provincial and 11 district hospitals with a combined capacity of 500 beds.

But its strategies to deal with the top ten killer diseases are more on "advocacy" and enlisting the support of local governments in the towns and barangays.

Rural health units in the towns are composed of a team of doctors, nurses, sanitary inspectors and midwifes but not all towns have midwifes and health inspectors.

The team is responsible for training barangay health workers, who are volunteers that monitor and detect diseases in their barangay as well as help administer anti-TB drugs.

CONTEMPT CASE

Tiwi folk rally for jailed execs

LEGAZPI, Albay—About 3,000 residents from 25 barangays of Tiwi town staged a rally in front of Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here yesterday in sympathy with their town Mayor Patria Gutierrez and Sangguniang Bayan members headed by Vice Mayor Ruth Corral who were arrested on Oct. 8 for indirect contempt of a Quezon City court.

Anticipating violence, members of the Police Provincial Mobile Force were deployed to the camp.

Supt. Pedro Tango, Albay police chief, did not allow all of Gutierrez's sympathizers to enter the camp. Barangay captains were allowed inside by batches.

Tango said the local officials would continue to be detained in the camp until a court order is issued for their release. He also said he could not turn them over to the provincial jail.

"Why would I turn them over to the jail? There's no court order, and they are no ordinary criminals. I cannot let them sleep on the floor," Tango said.

The officials stay at the Provincial Executive House at night.

Tango said they would render the same treatment in the future to whoever will be arrested for the same reasons.

"What's wrong with what I did? Many of them are old and suffering from hypertension. But you know, they are under our custody and well guarded," he said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Gutierrez said the reason they were detained was to protect the interest of the town.

"Do they want to see us behind bars? We are not criminals! This is not even corruption and we haven't stolen any single cent," Gutierrez said.

She said the P21 million claim of lawyer Antonio Betito had been denied by three sets of councils of Tiwi as having no legal basis.

She said the contract had no confirmation from the Sangguniang Bayan during and after the term of the late mayor Naomi Corral.

Gutierrez said they are fighting the claim in court.

The officials filed a motion to quash the arrest order issued by the Quezon City court.

The warrant of arrest was issued by presiding judge Lucas Bersamin of Regional Trial Cour Branch 96 in Quezon City based on the decision of the same court on May 23 on the claim of Betito.

The case stemmed from a legal service contract entered into by Betito and the town through Corral.

The municipality of Tiwi has been left with no elected officials to run its municipal government for three days now after the officials' arrest.

Ruth Competente Pacis-Eva was designated officer-in-charge of the town.

Since the officials were detained outside Tiwi, they could not exercise their functions. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Farmers told to try hybrid rice variety

BUTUAN CITY—The Department of Agriculture in the Caraga Region said the planting of hybrid rice in farms increases production and helps stabilize market prices amid a decline in the supply of commercial rice in the region.

Ricardo Regis, assistant regional director of the DA-Caraga, said they have been urging farmers to plant hybrid rice than seeds locally developed as part of efforts to increase the supply of rice, which dropped causing prices to soar to a high of P32 per kilogram.

With this kind of grain, the DA said, farmers could now produce an average of 13.6 metric tons per hectare, almost double the yield of locally produced grains.

An estimated 4,500 hectares of farms would be used in the region with the agriculture department providing technical assistance to farmer-planters and the Quedancor providing loans.

At least 104 ha in Trento, Agusan del Sur had been planted and used for hybrid rice production.

"With this program we can stabilize prices and ensure our food security," Regis said.

The fall of rice supply led to higher rice prices. They reached P32 per kilogram in Agusan del Sur.

Prices now range from P21-P26 per kilogram depending on rice quality. But prices remain unstable because of fears that the El Niño phenomenon would wreak havoc on agriculture.

Regis said ensuring self-sufficiency in rice and building a less-import dependent agriculture sector has become the priority of the government following the influx of rice from neighboring Vietnam and Thailand. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

T'BOLI CRAFT ROMEO GACAD/AFP

A T'BOLI couple continues to rely on traditional methods of casting bronze in their hometown in Lake Sebu. T'boli tribesmen are known for their skills in producing jewelry pieces.

DAR chief says money behind rallies of group

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza revealed that a group claiming to represent farmers has resorted to blackmail to pressure the Department of Agrarian Reform to cough up payment for an unfinished project.

Braganza, in a statement, said the group calling itself Ugnayan ng mga Nagkakaisang Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka) is pressuring the DAR to pay P3 million of a P6 million DAR commitment for a project that the group has not completed.

During the Estrada administration, the Unorka entered into a contract with the government to help in the acquisition and distribution of private agricultural lands.

But Braganza said the group has accomplished only 7 percent of its target and wants the DAR to pay the full amount of its commitment.

The group held a rally inside the DAR recently with 50 farmers entering the DAR office and holding a picket inside the DAR lobby.

"It is lamentable that this NGO was able to hoodwink the farmers into believing that the rally was organized to follow up agrarian cases pending at DAR," Braganza said.

The Community-Organizing, Land Acquisition, Distribution and Democratization 2000 Project (CO-LADD) required Unorka's federation, Peace Foundation Inc., to help DAR fast track the acquisition and distribution of private agricultural lands in seven provinces.

The total project cost is P11.1 million with DAR shouldering P6.1 million and the Peace Foundation coming up with P4.9 million.

The previous DAR administration had already released 60 percent of its commitment in two tranches of P1.8 million each.

Braganza, however, ordered that payment be withheld until the group achieves its targets.

The group, as of March last year, accomplished only 7 percent of its target, he said.

Braganza said after he turned down the Unorka demand for payment, the group held rallies and demanded his resignation.

He said Unorka and Peace Foundation lost most of its member-people's organizations in Bulacan, Pampanga and Laguna after it was exposed that they were just being used to collect money from DAR.

Braganza also stressed that he would not order the release of money to Unorka until it has achieved its target.

"No amount of blackmail or extortion can change my mind on this issue," Braganza said.

Former mayor tied to slaying

LUPON, Davao Oriental—A man who confessed to killing this town's treasurer in February has implicated former Mayor Afran Quinones as the alleged mastermind of the assassination.

Rodel Bandera, who surrendered to the Kidapawan City police, said in a sworn statement that he and four others were hired by Quinonez to kill municipal treasurer Maximo Tanzo.

Quinonez denied the allegation, saying it was politically-motivated.

Tanzo was shot and killed on Feb. 14 inside a bus bound for the capital town of Mati.

"Why in the world should I hire this man when in fact he is an employee of the municipal government. The suspect I think is a member of the CSU (Civil Security Unit). If I would hire a gunman, I will not hire those from the CSU, common sense will tell you," Quinonez told the INQUIRER.

"I have no reason to kill the municipal treasurer, he is a good friend of mine. He is like a second father to me."

"All these things are politically motivated. They are doing everything to stop me . . . ," he said. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army officials in Cebu face probe for arrest of reb suspect

CEBU CITY—Top officials of the 78th Infantry Battalion based in Sogod town, Cebu are facing investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas for the alleged illegal arrest and detention of a suspected communist rebel.

The respondents were identified as Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, 78th IB commander; Major Asilo Medija, executive officer; Capt. Jun Politud and several unidentified soldiers.

Rogelia Lumbab and her son, Renante filed the complaint against the soldiers whom they claimed violated the anti-graft law and Republic Act 7438, when they arrested and detained Nestor, Rogelia's other son.

RA 7438 is the law that defines the rights of persons who are arrested and detained.

Sumagaysay said he was optimistic that the Ombudsman-Visayas would dismiss the complaint since Nestor opted to stay inside the 78th ID camp.

He also denied they had tortured Nestor.

Sumagaysay described the complaint as a form of harassment from the human rights group Karapatan to discredit him and his men. *Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Vested interests' in anti-coal plant campaign hit

By Delfin Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NASUGBU, Batangas—Former senator Juan Ponce Enrile expressed support for efforts to protect the environment from harmful emissions from power plants but declared continuous opposition to the pseudo-environmental concerns of what he called "vested interest groups."

He made it clear during a recent forum here that he would not allow the exploitation of environmental concerns by vested interest groups "pursuing narrow, highly questionable goals, especially on the issue of shutting down state-owned coal-fired power plants."

Enrile, also the president of Philippine Consumer Watch Foundation, explained that the lobby to push government to close down the Calaca coal-fired power plants was not anchored on environmental concerns at all.

On the contrary, he said, "it was a devious ploy to allow the Lopez-owned First Gas Power Corp. (FGPC) to take over the transmission lines being used by the National Power Corporation's 600-megawatt Calaca I and II power plants so that they could deliver power for distribution under a sweetheart deal with the Lopez-managed Meralco (Manila Electric Co.)."

Last month, the former senator exposed the exploitation of environmental concerns in the media and the legislative pressure reportedly being exerted by certain groups lobbying for the closure of the government-owned Calaca coal-fired power plants in Batangas allegedly to protect the interest of FGPC, a company owned by the Lopez family.

However, FGPC lambasted Enrile's allegation as "misleading, baseless and malicious and only meant to taint the integrity of the Lopezes."

The company said its transactions with Meralco have undergone extensive public hearings and have been certified as aboveboard by the Energy Regulatory Board.

Enrile said the Lopezes face the risk of losing at least P8 billion because the transmission lines for their San Lorenzo plant would only be completed by Transco in 2004.

He described the Lopez situation as "really ironic and scandalous."

"Now they want the government and the taxpayers to pay for their bad business decision by deceitfully waging an anti-coal power plant campaign to close down the Calaca power plants," Enrile said.

The former defense secretary during the Marcos and Aquino administrations also argued that calling for the closure of coal-fired power plants should be best left to the competent agencies of government to determine and decide upon.

"We cannot just close down coal power plants now simply because of media and legislative pressure. The Department of Environment and National Resources must determine whether these existing plants are complying with their environmental compliance certificates (ECCs)," Enrile said.

Last year, Greenpeace, an international environmentalist group, disclosed in a report that the 600-megawatt Napocor-Calaca coal-fired power revealed the presence of "neurotoxin mercury." The group has been pushing for the closure of all coal plants in the country.

But on Wednesday, Energy Secretary Vince Perez warned that closing coal plants would trigger hikes in power bills.

The energy official said the country would be forced to rely on the power generated by the controversial independent power producers, which would hike purchased power adjustment rates.

Enrile called on the government to review all existing environmental requirements and make the required changes.

The former senator said the government should take care of the country's power needs with available and proven technologies such as coal, hydro, geothermal, natural gas and hopefully, with lesser dependence on oil.

"We just need to be careful and consistent with environmental protection," he added.

Head of Central Luzon LTO sacked for extortion

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso, chief of the Land Transportation Office, on Wednesday announced the relief of the agency's director in Central Luzon over alleged extortion.

He said his order to sack Manuel Bondoc was approved by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza on Thursday. Lastimoso appointed LTO Regional Deputy Director Jesus Vitug as officer-in-charge.

Bondoc was relieved after Lastimoso reviewed the graft and corruption complaints against him.

Three LTO provincial officials—Fernando Tingin, head of the Bataan licensing office; Rolando Castro, chief of Nueva Ecija district office; and Abel Beltran, head of the Bulacan LTO office—filed the charges before the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Office of the Ombudsman.

In their affidavits, they claimed that Bondoc, a former mayor of San Simon, Pampanga, "forced them to remit to him cash money ranging from P10,000 to P40,000 monthly."

These, they added, were "forced . . . under the pain of relief or transfer."

LTO sources said Bondoc also imposed on other officials a quota worth the same amount demanded from the three complainants.

Two weeks ago, Lastimoso stopped an LTO panel from proceeding with the investigation of Bondoc's alleged extortion racket to give the Ombudsman a full hand on the complaints.

Last week's review was said to have been prompted by mounting appeals for Bondoc's ouster. It also came on the heels of observations by Lakas-NUCD leaders in Pampanga that Bondoc's appointment to the post had caused disenchantments among the provincemates of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Army hunts reb killers of 'lumad'

DAVAO CITY—The military has intensified its manhunt against a band of communist rebels responsible for last week's death of at least two members of the Alsa Lumad in Davao del Norte.

Maj. Agane Adriatico, commander of the 5th Civil Relations Group (CRG) based in Camp Panacan here, said the military had used helicopters in dropping off two platoons of soldiers in the hinterlands of Kapalong town to track down the rebels.

Earlier last week, New People's Army rebels in the area killed Baal and Panabong Bonggot, both members of the Special Operation Group (SOG) of the Alsa Lumad, a military backed anti-communist vigilante group.

Two other SOG members were wounded in the gunfight.

Human rights groups have denounced the use of tribal communities in the fight against communist guerrillas.

Some tribes, however, have organized anti-guerrilla units to fight the NPAs, claiming the rebels have brought them difficulties. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Labor chief accused of taking bribe

From page A1

nent and good government.

"(Sto. Tomas) should prove hat she was not paid or bribed by Nestlé because this is what is being shown during her trip to Switzerland," said Beltran, the concurrent chair of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno labor group. He said he had documents to prove that Nestlé paid for the car and driver the labor secretary used in Geneva when she attended the June 6-20 International Labor Organization's convention.

But Sto. Tomas said Beltran got the dates wrong. She said she used an old embassy car that occasionally broke down while she was in Geneva from June 9 to 18, and added that nobody from Nestlé met with her or even called her up while she was in Switzerland.

Geneva limo

Beltran's documents purported to show that Sto. Tomas used the services of Geneva Limousine from June 15 to 16, which provided her with a Mercedes 320 S-Class sedan and a driver for her trip from Geneva to Milano and back.

A June 18 receipt from Geneva Limousine, a copy of which was provided the INQUIRER, showed that the bill amounted to 4,730.50 Swiss francs (about P170,000) and was for the account of Nestlé, Nestec S.A., with office address at Avenue Nestlé 55, 1800 Vevey, the head office of Nestle Philippines' mother company.

But a June 16 receipt addressed to Nestlé Philippines placed the total amount for "various expenses regarding Mrs. Patricia Sto. Tomas" at 8,915.20 Swiss francs (about P316,000).

The same document showed an "OK for Payment" stamp from Nestlé Philippines' Finance and Control Division, as well the cost center number (90.81010) and account number (865.130.000.000.)

"Could this be the reason for the decisions of Secretary Sto. Tomas favoring Nestlé and not the welfare of the workers?" Beltran asked in his speech.

If this was the case, he added, how can Nestle workers get justice from the labor department?

But a "very irritated" Sto. Tomas denied accepting any favors from Nestle and--taking a dig at KMU and other groups under the National Democratic Front umbrella—said she does not receive financial support from foreign patrons.

LABOR SECRETARY Patricia Sto. Tomas: No financial support from foreign patrons unlike the KMU, NDF and other left-leaning groups. ROMY HOMILLADA

REP. CRISPIN BELTRAN: Blood in your coffee. JOAN BONDOC

She dared Beltran and KMU to substantiate their accusations and file charges against her before the Ombudsman. She said she had endured the KMU's shouting in the streets and its siding with Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Wilhelm Soriano, the agency head with whom she is at odds. But she said she would not take Beltran's accusations lying down.

"They had better be able to prove it because that's really going to cost them," she said.

"I will sue for the shirts on their back. It's not good to let them get away with tarnishing the reputation of a person," she said in an interview at the Department of Labor and Employment yesterday.

"I strongly resent people making insinuations that I took bribes. We'll see each other in court," Sto. Tomas added.

Beltran's cohorts

Sto. Tomas said she did not know what "Beltran and his cohorts" were up to by saying that Nestlé rented a limousine for her use while attending the ILO conference. She used an old service which occasionally broke down, she said, and added that the entire Philippine delegation as well as records from the hotel where she stayed would prove it.

She had used a limousine provided by the ILO last year, while she was president of the ILO conference, but then that was a privilege given to all ILO conference presidents, she said.

"I don't accept anything from anybody. I pay my way every step of the way. I don't know if they can say the same for themselves," Sto. Tomas said.

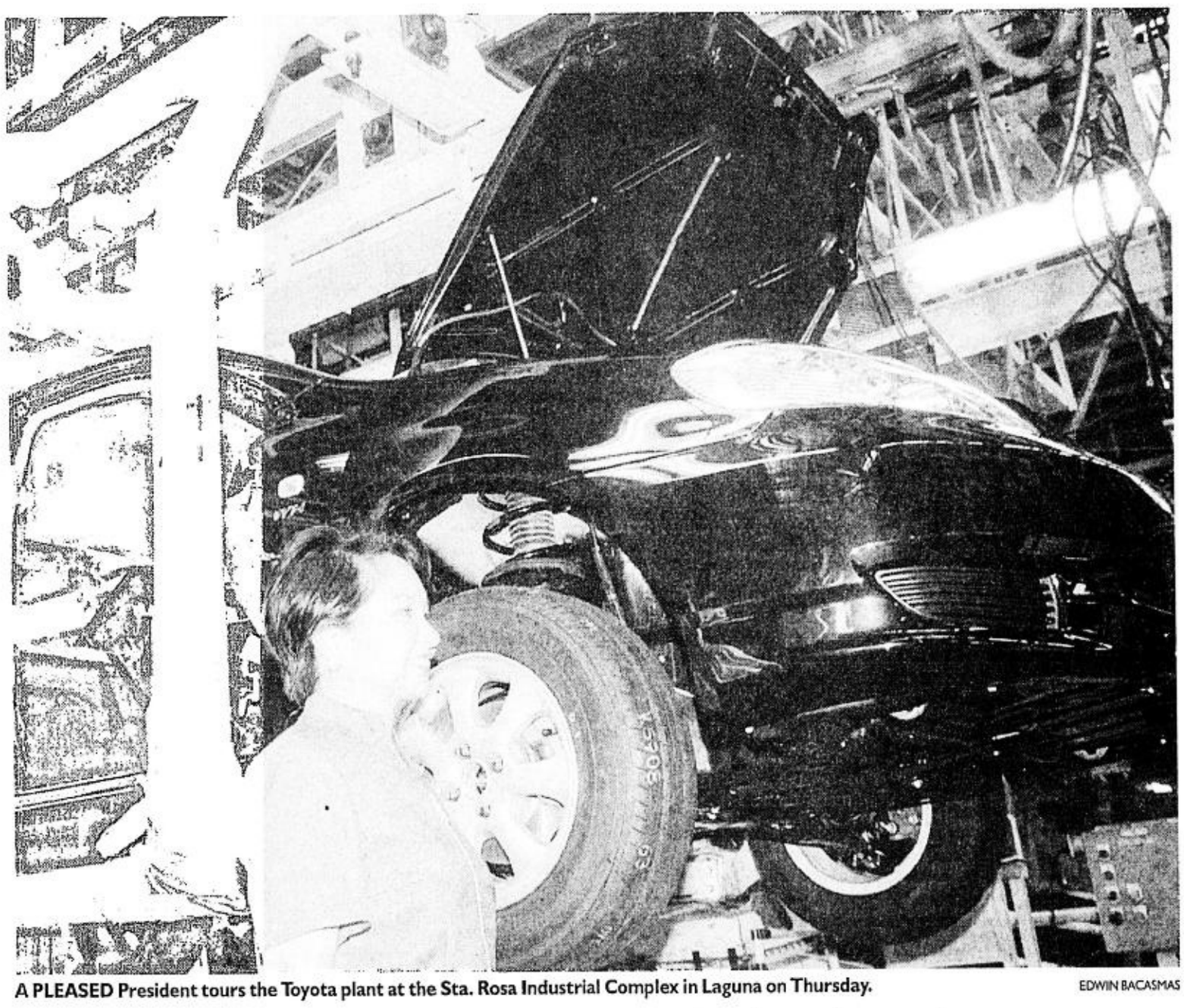
She alluded to the militant group's support from "foreign patrons" and "the Netherlands."

She speculated that the allegations against her could be because of new talks on the wage hike, or it could be related to her rift with Soriano.

Nestlé-Union Filipro Employees (UFE) has been on strike since November last year. That same month, Sto. Tomas assumed jurisdiction over the collective bargaining agreement dispute. She denied the union's motions for reconsideration twice, on Jan. 14 and March 28. The union elevated its case to the Court of Appeals but on April 2, Sto. Tomas issued an order declaring the company's retirement plan a non-CBA matter. On May 6, she denied the union's motion for reconsideration. On Sept. 6, the Office of the Solicitor General filed a manifestation in lieu of the CA comment where it maintained that retirement benefits due to the workers were considered as a subject matter for negotiation. It said Sto. Tomas erred in adjudicating it as a non-negotiable issue.

"I have been in public service since I graduated from college, and I have kept my nose clean... This is such an evil thing to do to another person," she said.

"I expect militant groups to be militant, not unprincipled," she added.



A PLEASED President tours the Toyota plant at the Sta. Rosa Industrial Complex in Laguna on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA receives RP's first-ever 'hybrid' sedan

From page A1

Not private property

Lest administration critics begin carping about the car's price tag, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said during his regular briefing that the car will not be considered a private property of President Macapagal but will be classified as a government car under the Office of the President.

Cho, according to an official Malacañang statement, noted that Toyota has been donating such "hybrid system" cars to heads of states in the Asean and other regions "to show Toyota's dedication to make the industry more environment-friendly."

Hardworking Filipinos

In brief remarks at the car plant, Ms Macapagal expressed thanks to the company's plan to expand its operations in the country.

"I am very grateful to all of the very hardworking Filipino workers here in Toyota," the President said amid cheers from the firm's Filipino workforce.

The Prius system uses a battery that can store and utilize energy for driving the car without the gasoline engine turned on.

"When going downhill on winding road where a car has to repeatedly slow down or stop, power regeneration can surpass consumption, allowing the Prius to drive as an electric car, generating electricity from gravity's pull alone," the Palace statement quoted Toyota's description of the sedan.

With its optimized Atkinson cycle engine, the car can run 29 kilometers per liter of gasoline. It uses a 12-volt auxiliary battery and a 300 "High Voltage" hybrid battery.

The hybrid model is said to work best in urban stop-and-go driving situations.

Aside from Cho, President Macapagal was welcomed at the automobile plant by Toyota Philippines chair George Ty, Toyota Japan managing director Akio Toyoda and Auto Parts Philippines president Nobuharu Tabata.

They informed the President of Toyota's plan to expand operations as a vote of "confidence in the administration and their trust in the skills of the Filipino workers."

Meralco to bill customers 14¢ more per kWh a month

From page A1

and higher fuel costs," Lumotan said.

Meralco gets 65 percent of its electricity from state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor), which is empowered to pass on costs from exchange rate weakness and oil price rises to distribution firms. The distributors, in turn, are compelled to pass on these price adjustments to their customers. Meralco gets 35 percent of its electricity from its own independent power producers—First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

Since the start of August the peso has lost 3 percent of its value and on Monday touched a near 14-month closing low of 52.90 to the dollar. It closed at 52.72 on Thursday.

Dubai crude, the main source of oil for the country, has risen nearly 8 percent since the beginning of August, with the market spooked by fears of a war in Iraq. Meralco, the country's dominant power retailer, has 3.8 million customers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Meralco data show that its PPA had gone up to P2.03 per KWh this month from P1.89 in September. The distribution giant's PPA went down to a low of P1.71 per kWh in July from a high of P3.30 per kWh in April. However, the PPA started rising again to P1.94 in August. The PPA is a mechanism that reflects changes in the cost of the utility's power purchases relative to its present basic charge, which was set in 1994.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the PPA cut in May amid public outcry against exorbitant power rates.

Ivanna de la Peña, Meralco's chief of utility economics, said the 14-centavo increase was due to upward movements in both Napocor and IPP selling rates. "Napocor's average selling rate increased by 14.9 centavos per kWh mainly due to its fuel cost adjustment," De la Peña said.

She said Meralco's own independent power producers' rates also went up by 13.2 centavos." But De la Peña stressed that the October PPA of P2.03 was still lower than the April PPA of P3.30. "This shows that gains of the reduction mandated by the President in May is preserved for all Meralco customers," she said.

In a statement, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said: "Meralco's PPA is not constant since every month there could be changes in the selling rate of (its suppliers due to) movements in fuel prices, the foreign exchange rate and the energy consumption for a given month—all of which dictates on the level of dispatch Napocor's and the IPPs' power plants."

Francisco said this explained why the cost of electricity from Napocor had been going up despite Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) charge having been pegged at 40 centavos per Kwh. Meralco reiterated that the PPA was strictly for cost-recovery and that not a single centavo of it goes to Meralco.

Meralco has been seeking a rate hike for nearly two-and-a-half years, to cover higher operating costs and to ensure it can meet return on rate base (RORB) requirements set by its key lenders. RORB is a measure of profitability. The industry regulator, supposed to have decided on the Meralco rate hike request by June 26 this year, has yet to do so.

Power costs have become an increasingly bitter issue in the country over the past year following the passage of legislation to deregulate the industry. Consumer groups and politicians have complained that pass-through costs by Napocor, linked to contracts with independent power producers, are unfair and possibly illegal. *Reports from Reuters and Ronnel W. Domingo*

Critics don't want Gloria to have sex?

From page A1

royo's declaration Thursday of her supposed bountiful sex life. "*Kaya tayo naghihirap* (That's why we're poor). No wonder our country is going nowhere."

Her remark also gave rise to a plug for abstinence from activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes, who said she should be celibate to be able to improve her efficiency as head of state.

"Look at us priests," Reyes said. "Celibacy makes us more productive."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran announced that he did not find the 55-year-old President beautiful, sexy or appealing.

"She's short-tempered, occasionally ill-mannered, and she has a deep-seated contempt for the poor and the working people," said Beltran, a veteran labor leader.

What triggered all these slings and arrows was "Plenty," Ms Macapagal's game response to a female member of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) who asked whether she still had sex.

But while her audience was vastly amused, Reyes was not.

Contacted by phone while attending a retreat of parish priests in Quezon City, he said he found it "shocking" that the President had flaunted her sex life in an apparent effort to show productivity as head of state.

"Productivity as President has nothing to do with sex life," he said. "It does not follow that if you have a lot of sex, you have lots of accomplishments."

Reyes also said many of his colleagues felt that Ms Macapagal's remark was "un-presidentiable" and "uncalled for."

"She's trying to project an image that she's a cute, sexy and desirable Gloria. It does not sit well with the people," he said, adding:

"People are hungry spiritually and morally. People are looking for a President with dignity, lots of prudence and good sense."

Besides, he said, the "Plenty" remark did not go with the President's supposed efforts to project herself as a "devout Catholic."

At the Focap luncheon, Ms Macapagal repeatedly said she was leaving matters of her presidency and political ambitions to God.

Reacting to her stance, Reyes aired a piece of advice that was given him by a spiritual retreat master and that the President could use: It will be good to let anything one says and does pass one's heart first.

Below the grade

Beltran was likewise unimpressed.

"In my book, a woman is beautiful and sexy when she is sincere in working for the good of the common people, when she has the humility to admit her mistakes, and when she refuses to compromise national interest in exchange for favors from foreign interlopers," he said.

He pointed out that Ms Macapagal "hardly makes the grade, no matter how many times she changes her hairstyle or the cut of her suits."

He also said her "warmongering on behalf of the United States" was very unbecoming of a woman: "It's a very unfeminine trait, but mostly it's inhumane."

According to Beltran, the President is trying hard to re-package herself as a woman of the masses, "but the public rejects it because it is evidently false."

"Neither is she a figure of integrity as she and her own husband (First Gentleman Mike Arroyo) are often the subject of scandal and anomaly," he said.

While Rome burns

For Sen. Joker Arroyo, the President's remark was "OK."

But Lacson said it was now clear that if she was not eyeing election in 2004, she was spending precious time having sex.

"Like Nero who plays his fiddle while Rome is burning, our President is campaigning and having plenty of sex while the country's economy continues to deteriorate," he said. *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana*

Impeach-Erap lawyer appointed Ombudsman

From page A1

Estrada impeachment trial, while Teehankee, 44, is an international litigator with two graduate degrees in law. Like his famous father, Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, the undersecretary also topped the bar examinations, in 1983.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Marcelo's appointment papers a day after the Judicial and Bar Council submitted its short list of nominees. Under the law, she had until 90 days to make her choice. The prompt action, together with the lack of an official explanation for choosing Marcelo, was likely to provoke even more controversy surrounding the appointment of the Ombudsman.

Marcelo was believed to be the top contender for the post, one of the most powerful offices in government, because he was an ex-partner of the influential Carpio Villaraza and Cruz (now Villaraza and Angcangco) law office, a firm with close ties to both the Macapagal and Arroyo families.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye fended off questions about Marcelo's association with the law firm.

"We rely on the sound discretion and the decision of the JBC, which you know is chaired by no less than the honorable chief justice of the Supreme Court," Bunye said. While his ties to the influential law office cannot be denied, Bunye said, Marcelo's nomination did go through the process. The JBC deliberated on the nominations of 22 aspirants.

Seven votes

"It turned out that when the case of Marcelo came up, all seven (JBC members) voted in his favor," Bunye said.

Marcelo is the third senior partner of the Villaraza firm to be given a prominent posting, after Avelino Cruz, chief presidential legal counsel, and firm founder Antonio Carpio, now associate justice of the Supreme Court. Sally Villaraza, wife of senior partner Pancho Villaraza, also stood as one of six principal sponsors when the President's eldest son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, got married last June. The firm has also been a tenant at the LTA Building in Makati, a building owned by the family of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, since the 1980s.

Bunye said Marcelo got the vote of all seven JBC members: Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano, retired Supreme Court Justice Regino Hermosisima Jr., lawyer Teresita Cruz Sison and Amado Dimayuga. The two other nominees in the JBC short list, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno and Social Security System chair Bernardino Abes, got five votes each, Bunye added.

He did not offer any explanation why President Macapagal chose Marcelo, who will serve as the government's chief graft buster for seven years. That is "her prerogative," he simply said.

"But we all know as a matter of record that the honorable Simeon Marcelo was very effective. He was a very crucial participant in the impeachment trial (of then President Joseph Estrada)."

"He has a good track record as a lawyer and he has served the Office of the Solicitor General with distinction," Bunye added.

Marcelo pointed to his performance as the government's chief lawyer the past 20 months to reassure those who had reservations about his ability and integrity. They "should just look at my record at the Office of the Solicitor General," he said. He said he will remain the "low-profile" figure he has always been, explaining that as Solicitor General he had declined many invitations to social functions and turned down office visitors seeking his "help."

He also said he "will inhibit" himself in graft cases that will be handled by "my friends" from his former law firm. He said the law office specialized in "corporate litigation" rather than the defense of public officials accused of graft.

More lawyers

Marcelo said he will strengthen his office's prosecutorial arm by hiring at least "30 more lawyers" and have them undergo more training "to match the best private (defense) lawyers money can buy."

To address his office's manpower limitations, Marcelo said he will also push for the passage of the bill in Congress "authorizing the Ombudsman to deputize private lawyers."

Marcelo was himself a deputized private counsel tapped by the House prosecution team during the Senate impeachment trial. He continues to play a lead role in Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan, particularly when he repeated his role as direct examining counsel of juetengate whistleblower, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Marcelo said he is "open" to help coming from civil society groups, especially in the area of graft prevention, and said he will form a working committee to get "suggestions" from non-government organizations.

He joked that, with his new post, he was practically letting go his dream of "getting rich as a private practitioner." He will be 56 by the time he retires, he said, and said he doubted whether he can resume his private practice afterwards. Instead, he sees himself teaching law or working with NGOs.

Bunye said Marcelo will have to wind down his affairs at the Office of the Solicitor General before assuming his new post.

Mixed reactions

The President's decision drew unexpected praise from opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Marcelo "has been picked from a field of respectable candidates. There is no doubt that he is a good man. In his new assignment, he deserves the support of every citizen," Pimentel said in a press statement.

"In this period of sliding confidence (in) the national leadership, Marcelo's appointment . . . comes as a refreshing twist that may bring back people's trust (in) the justice system," he added.

Pangilinan said Marcelo must "regain the trust and confidence of the public if (the Ombudsman) is to be effective in battling corruption and inefficiency in government."

"The challenge facing Marcelo is to breathe life to the constitutional mandate that the Office of the Ombudsman must be independent," he said.

Pangilinan said the perception that Marcelo may be influenced by his former law firm partners "will only be set aside by resolute and uncompromising official acts."

"The ball is in his court to prove his detractors wrong through a no-nonsense campaign against corruption and inefficiency," he said.

But Carolina Araullo, a convenor of Plunder Watch, the citizens' watchdog group monitoring the Estrada plunder trial, said Marcelo's appointment was a grievous mistake.

"Railroading and rigging: these are the two words that can most accurately describe what happened in the selection process for the new Ombudsman," Araullo said in a statement.

"Marcelo, the law partner in the most favored law firm in the country today . . . is widely believed to be GMA's insurance against future cases of plunder and corruption that may be lodged against the President, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the new cronies and political allies in the corridors of power," she added.

But in Cebu City, Gov. Pablo Garcia hailed the appointment. Garcia said Marcelo was highly competent and qualified to head the anti-graft body, citing Marcelo's performance as private prosecutor in the impeachment trial. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MANUEL TEEHANKEE, son of a famous father, is a bar topnotcher (1983), international litigator with two graduate degrees in law. JESS YUSON

It's time to go, Gervacio, says Moreno

By Juliet Javellana

GERVACIO

MISAMIS Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said yesterday he was happy about the appointment of Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo as the new Ombudsman, but happier about the failure of acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio to clinch the post.

Moreno, who endorsed the impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, asked Gervacio to resign.

"It's time to go, Gervacio," Moreno said.

He said Gervacio, whom he described as Desierto's favored successor, can no longer be effective in the Office of the Ombudsman after he did not even make it to the Judicial and Bar Council short list of nominees.

"The message of the JBC could not have been clearer. It was a strong rebuke of Gervacio. He should be decent enough to go," Moreno said.

Moreno endorsed the impeachment case filed against Desierto by lawyer Ernesto "Jun" Francisco. The two also filed a formal opposition to the appointment of Gervacio as Ombudsman.

"I'm very happy with what happened," Moreno said.

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Manila/Roxas	P 1799	P 3598	P 1599	P 2799
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Kidapawan blast kills 8, hurts 25

From page A1

two dozen others.

"We have deployed soldiers backed by armored personnel carrier and an EOD team to search for more bombs," said Maj. Julieto Ando, regional Army spokesperson. "This is terrorism."

Cotabato, an agricultural province, is a stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been waging a separatist uprising since the 1970s. The MILF and the government are engaged in peace talks brokered by Malaysia.

But Ando said it was too early to pinpoint any group, adding that communist guerrillas and bandits also have a presence in North Cotabato.

"If this is the handiwork of rebels, how could they say that they're champion of the masses?" Ando said. "They're killing innocent people who could not defend themselves."

Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the explosion came just as officials were tightening security in the city following a series of bombings in Mindanao the past three months.

"This (explosion) happened one step ahead of our plan," he said. A bomb attack about a month ago wounded nine people in the same terminal.

Piñol and police officials suspect that Thursday's attack were carried out by groups trying to extort money from the Weena Bus Co.

Another Zambo bomb

Officials, however, blamed the Zamboanga bombing on the Abu Sayyaf, which warned a week earlier it would mount attacks on civilian, military and US targets to retaliate for the ongoing government offensive against Moro rebels in Mindanao.

In early September, CNN and the INQUIRER reported that a suspected al-Qaida member had told US interrogators about the terrorist group's plan to attack unspecified targets in the Philippines.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez brushed aside the report, saying the news was nothing new.

On Wednesday evening, a jeepney driver turned over to authorities a nail-packed bomb attached to a cell phone that he had found in his vehicle.

"This bomb was meant to harm and kill innocent people," said Chief Insp. Jose Bayani Gucela, head of intelligence of the Zamboanga City police.

Despite the latest wave of terror, the Mindanao Business Council remains unfazed, saying the bombings were isolated incidents.

"Mindanao has over 10,000 barangays, and there is no reason our local economy could be crippled by such pointless and futile acts of terrorism," said MBC chair Joji Ilagan-Bian.

Overseas cells

In Washington, however, US counterterrorism officials said the Zamboanga City bombing as well as Tuesday's shootout in Kuwait bolstered their suspicion that the al-Qaida had left the plotting of attacks to local operatives.

Neither was particularly sophisticated, with the attack in Kuwait amounting to a drive-by shooting and the explosion in the Philippines strike using a nail-packed bomb mounted on a motorcycle. Al-Qaida's calling card is spectacular attacks, using lots of explosives, often against multiple targets simultaneously.

Although both attacks killed US military personnel, there's no evidence they are connected, according to a US counterterrorism official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Counterterror experts had been expecting some kind of action, officials said, adding that the small strikes don't rule out the possibility of a large attack.

In Tuesday's attack, two Kuwaitis in a pickup truck attacked a group of Marines during exercises on a small island near Kuwait City. Marine Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Sledd, 20, of Hillsborough, Fla., was shot and killed. The attackers then drove to a second location and attacked again before being killed by Marines, the Pentagon said.

Intelligence officials have said they believe al-Qaida decentralized after the US war in Afghanistan. Many of its top leaders are hiding, allowing overseas cells to devise their own attacks, which are often poorly funded and unsophisticated. Leaders are communicating with followers through video and audiotapes, rather than direct contact.

But that doesn't mean al-Qaida's leadership has entirely gone to ground.

Counterterrorism officials have said two of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, are continuing to organize strikes. *With reports by AP, AFP and Reuters*

Fruitful visit turns deadly

From page A1

A powerful bomb exploded at the Market Administration Building, the ground floor of which doubles as a passengers' waiting shed.

All Asam could remember was a powerful blow before she fell on the pavement. When she regained consciousness, she said the sight was so frightening.

"I saw bloodied bodies sprawled around me. Some of them were being loaded into tricycles. I knew that I was also one of the injured when I felt pain," she said.

The explosion sent dozens of people scampering for safety.

One of those was Noel Buntia of Davao del Sur.

When the INQUIRER caught up with him, he could not hear the questions asked him.

Eliza Maglasang, a vendor, said she was shocked at the sight of bloodied bodies scattered in the terminal area.

"They were squirming...they were crawling. I immediately knew that the explosion caused death because some people were not moving," she said.

Maglasang said she ran as fast as she could, leaving her wares behind, when the blast occurred.

The authorities have speculated that the bomb was intended for the Weena Bus but Maglasang said she believes otherwise.

"If it was intended for Weena, then the suspects could have planted it inside a bus, not in the waiting shed," she said.

"There were bombs in Cotabato (City), in Kabacan and in Midsayap. Now it is in Kidapawan. Whatever their reasons are, it is clear that they wanted to hurt people," vendor Kristina Espanol, 60, said.

At 6 p.m., the terminal area was so gloomy that only a few persons, most of them policemen, dared to go there. Even people who usually flock to the passengers' waiting shed at 5 p.m. to secure their sleeping area had gone elsewhere.

Maglasang and Espanol began to doubt if they would return today to the market as they feared more explosions to come.

Quezon bishop bats for peace zones in areas of conflict

By Delfin T.Mallari,Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

"PEACE Zones" have to be established and respected by the protagonists in the armed conflict.

This was the proposal of Quezon Catholic Bishop Julio Labayen who called on the residents and "neutral groups" of war-torn areas to work for peace.

But he stressed that working for the adoption of a peace zone should be confined to the efforts of the affected people themselves.

"The New People's Army and the military have their own concepts and agenda of peace zones. They should be out of this effort," Labayen told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

Labayen was one of the staunchest critics of deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos during the martial law regime.

He also called on the Macapagal administration to return to the negotiation table and face the communists in finding solutions to end the over three decades of the bloody rebellion.

The head of the Prelature of Infanta lamented the rejection by the Macapagal administration of the past agreements already inked by the previous peace panels.

"Why ignore the past agreements? The panels have all worked hard toward its final settlement. What embodies in those agreements were the basic tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," he argued.

Labayen said that from what he understands, "Joma is now opting for peace."

But the bishop lamented the series of attacks staged by the communist guerrillas in Quezon province.

"They are the ones that block the resumption of peace talks," he said.

No central command

He disclosed that based on his experience with the underground groups during the Marcos years, "The NPA has no centralized command. It all depends on their local leaders in the area."

Labayen assailed the continuous assault on the human rights of Jose Maria Sison, the self-exiled founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"Why deprive him of home and his meager financial subsistence? That's one brazen violation of Joma's right to live," Labayen said.

"Besides, The Netherlands has already accepted him before as a political refugee," the bishop pointed out. He raised the suspicion that the United States government was behind the political harassment on Sison.

Last month, the Dutch government had stopped all the benefits due to Sison, who has been in exile in Utrecht, The Netherlands, for the past 15 years.

Lopez town Mayor Sonny Ubana, the president of the Quezon Mayors League, also urged local government officials to initiate a province-wide peace talk with the rebels to defuse the volatile peace and order situation.

Quezon province is a known stronghold of the communist insurgents with the NPA's Apolonia Mendoza and Maria Theresa de Leon Commands as the main groups of guerrillas operating in the area.

Negotiation with communist rebels useless, says defense chief

From page A1

country but to intensify the launching of more capable and successful tactical military offensives against the government," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, said in a cell phone interview.

He was reacting to the President's declaration on Wednesday that 95 percent of Filipinos did not want the government to restart formal negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front. Rosal, militant groups and even allies of the President wondered where she got the figure.

The President yesterday said the CPP wanted to hold negotiations so that it could use them for propaganda. She said the government wanted peace talks but "we want the NPA to lay down their arms."

At a luncheon with members of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the President expressed doubts that the CPP and NPA would be willing to demobilize and lay down their arms as a result of any peace agreement with the government. "Now they want peace talks but I doubt if they are ready to lay down their arms," she said.

Nevertheless, the President urged sectoral representatives in the NAPC, the government agency coordinating all poverty alleviation programs, to campaign among the 95 percent of Filipinos who are said to be against the resumption of formal talks with the NDF.

"You have to build up a peace constituency because there is only a 5 percent peace constituency right now," she said.

At the luncheon in Malacañang, NAPC sectoral representatives presented Ms Macapagal with a resolution supporting the peace negotiations. The resolution called on the government and communist rebels, as well as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, to return to formal peace talks.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo disputed the President's claim that most Filipinos were against peace talks, saying that the people were naturally inclined toward peace rather than war. Ocampo said the President's statement was tantamount to a declaration of war against the NDF.

Peace, not sex talks

"We want peace talks, not sex talks," Ocampo said. Ms Macapagal admitted to members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) that she was having "plenty" of sex.

"The President says she has plenty of time for sex, but she obviously doesn't have time for social programs (that would solve the insurgency problem in this country)," Ocampo said at a press conference. He noted that Vice President Teofisto Guingona and several legislators had signed a unity statement being circulated by the Pilgrims for Peace group, which calls on the government and the NDF to return to the negotiating table.

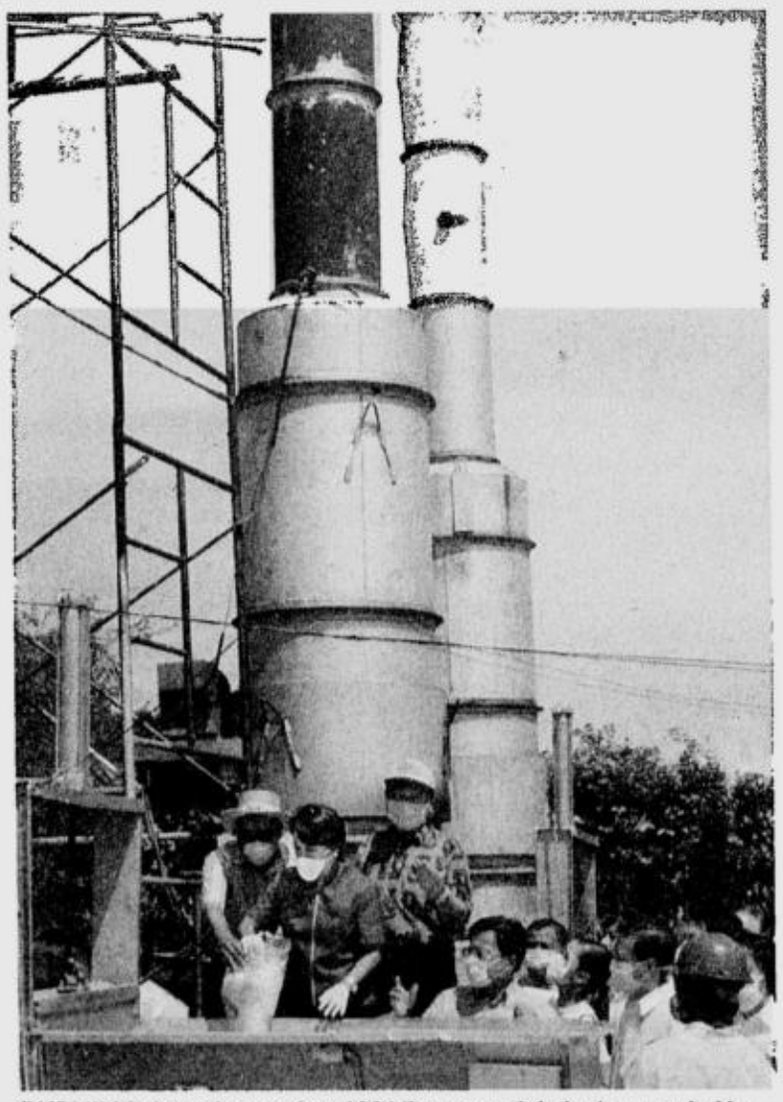
"In fact, many bishops from all over the country were also signatories to the Pilgrims for Peace's unity statement. We know that when bishops make known their stand on issues, they do not only speak for themselves, but also for their millions of parishioners," Ocampo said.

Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP), said the President's claim was false.

"Did she ever ask the sentiments of majority of the people who participated in Edsa II?" he said.

The Tongtongan ti Umili (TTU) described as "gross misrepresentation" Ms Macapagal's claim that 95 percent of Filipinos were against talks with the communist rebels. Voltaire Tupaz, TTU's secretary general, said the administration was foisting the wrong impression on the public that Filipinos did not want a just and lasting peace.

Even the President's allies in the House were in the dark about the source of the President's figure. Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul Gonzalez and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House defense committee, said they were not aware of any survey about the people's sentiments on peace talks. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the figure came from Malacañang's own internal survey. *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Agnes E. Donato in Manila; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



BURNING rites of more than 198 kilograms of shabu is preceded by an examination of its chemicals for the President to observe at the integrated waste management incinerator in Barangay Puting Lupa, Calamba, Laguna EDWIN BACASMAS

'Dad, how did this happen?'

From page A1

He added: "I have been friendly with people all my life. I am not a violent person. I have been advocating peace."

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo gave the AFP and the Philippine National Police until today to file charges. She said she had not seen genuine interest or effort from the military and police to question al Ghaffari, whom the bureau took in custody Monday night for overstaying.

"Insofar as the PNP is concerned, I can say that we can only assist (the BI) in the collection of information," Ebdane said. "However, I would candidly say we don't have a holding on (al Ghaffari's links to terrorism) yet."

Ebdane made the disclosure during a break in a command conference in Camp Crame over which he presided to assess the PNP's accomplishments. He marks his 100 days as PNP chief tomorrow.

Al Ghaffari is president of the Islamic Wisdom Worldwide Mission, a humanitarian group, and member of the Mother Earth Foundation, an alliance of priests, nuns and civil society leaders engaged in pro-environment projects.

Catholic bishops and priests have given him various plaques of recognition for his "good deeds."

The Jordanian, who has two wives and nine children, is a businessman and a lecturer in various schools including the National Defense College and the Asian Institute of Management. He taught values formation, ecology and the basic tenets of Islam.

Al Ghaffari admitted that he had sought permission from the BI to leave the country. He said he was holding a plane ticket open-dated since May, when he planned but failed to visit his ailing mother.

He also said his mother and sister in Jordan were weeping when they phoned him the other night. He said he had to lie to them in saying he was safe at home because he did not want them to worry.

Al Ghaffari said he would still want to visit his family in Jordan but that he would return to the Philippines where he had "spent the most beautiful times of (his) life."

"This is my second home," the 18-year resident of the Philippines said in halting Tagalog. "I am more Filipino than some Filipinos."

Debriefing

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, director of the PNP Intelligence Group, echoed Ebdane in saying that police did not have "anything to pin al Ghaffari down on any charges."

But he said he had requested the BI to allow the Intelligence Group to debrief the Jordanian on alleged terrorist links. Al Ghaffari is likewise expected to be quizzed by authorities for possible involvement in the Oct. 2 bomb attack in Zamboanga City.

Caringal also said al Ghaffari was not connected to the Rajah Sulaiman Movement, whose school in Pangasinan and training camp in Tarlac were raided by authorities in May.

The raids resulted in the arrest of nine suspected terrorists and the seizure of assorted firearms, explosives and bomb-making devices.

"We don't have anything to link al Ghaffari to the incident in Anda, Pangasinan," Caringal said.

But this disclosure contradicted a report received by Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, PNP director for intelligence, on al Ghaffari's alleged links to the Rajah Sulaiman Movement.

"So far the only report we have is that al Ghaffari provided funds to the group arrested in Pangasinan and Tarlac," Delfin told reporters at the same conference.

An intelligence source had earlier disclosed al Ghaffari's supposed links with Dawud Muslim del Rosario Santos, head of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement that ran the Madrasah Islamic school in Pangasinan and its training camp in Tarlac.

Santos was among those arrested during the raid on the school. He was later released.

Citing another intelligence report, Delfin said al Ghaffari also funded protest rallies in front of the US and Israeli embassies in Manila this year.

Racial profiling

But Michael Mastura, a member of the government panel negotiating peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and a former congressman, said al Ghaffari was a victim of "racial profiling."

"The presumption of innocence is overturned," Mastura said. "The religious bias against Arabs and Muslims is very patent."

Al Ghaffari's Filipino wife Amina complained of his "ill treatment" by the media and the BI. "He is a respected and dignified man, but the way they treated him stripped him of his honor," she said. *With a report from Samira Ali Gutoc, contributor*

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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3-DAY ASIAD DROUGHT

No medal again for RP

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—There was no medal again yesterday for the Philippines and the day was blackened all the more when a biased referee caused the ouster of Olympian Roberto Cruz in the 14th Asian Games here.

The medal drought is now three days old but that will end today when taekwondo jin Veronica Domingo battles Kin Su-Ok even as Eduardo Buenavista broke both the Philippine and Southeast Asian Games record in the 5,000m run.

All Domingo has to do is show up for her match to assure herself of a bronze medal in the welterweight class–win or lose.

That's because Domingo earned the luck of the draw when she got the semifinal berth.

Cruz, the six-time SEA Games champion and a veteran of the Sydney Olympics, was declared loser by superiority, following a 9-9 deadlock in the first round against Tajiskistan's Matin Boboek.

The referee's decision irked RP officials, coaches and players and pandemonium almost broke loose were it not for the timely intercession of cooler heads led by head coach Noli Gabriel.

Taekwondo employs a unique scoring system wherein the referee has the absolute power to pick the winner in case the fight ends in a deadlock.

But Cruz's setback was partly of his own undoing.

Instead of simply dancing away the remaining 30 seconds from harm's way after he has built a 9-7 margin, Cruz still decided to mix it up with Boboek.

The Filipino was struck twice in the infighting as the rallying opponent forced the 9-9 standoff at the bell.

Cruz's two teammates--Alexander Briones and Sydney Olympian Eva Marie Ditan - also crashed out after winning the initial bouts.

Diver Shiela May Perez placed a strong fourth in diving and the Sydney Olympian found consolation by emerging the first among Southeast Asian competitors.

The 17-year-old Perez was beaten by Japan's Ryoko Ushi in the event won by China whose entry swept the first two places in runaway fashion.

Ushi scored 485.790 while Perez had 477.570.

China's Go Jingjing tallied 629.400 for the gold while her teammate Wu Minxia submitted 609.150.

With an unabated medal drought, the Filipino clung on to 17th overall with 11 medals (2 golds, three silver and six bronzes). Vietnam was No. 18 but Indonesia surpassed the Philippines with its 2-6-6 record.

Unstoppable China continued to pull away at 126-62-53 followed by South Korea 65-63-69 and Japan's 39-64-56.

Wushu's Marvin Sicomen, Rexel Nanhaina and Joseph Pasiwat hurdled their respective rivals to stay in the running.

Buenavista clocked 13:58.43 in finishing 9th among 13 entries to surpass previous records of 14:08.97 and 14:00.26, respectively in the SEAG and the Philippine athletics.

High jumper Sean Guevarra cleared 2.05 meters to finish 14th in his event.

CRUZ (right) connects with a turning back kick against Boboek during their preliminary match but the Filipino lost. JESS YUSON

After Busan, Django wins in Baltimore

ASIAD gold medalist Francisco "Django" Bustamante continued his winning ways, defeating Mika Immonen of Finland in their sudden-death, one-rack final to win the 7-ball championship at the ESPN Zone in Baltimore, Maryland, Wednesday.

Bustamante pocketed $25,000 (P1.3 million) after his 3-7, 7-3, 1-0 triumph over Immonen.

The victory was sweet for Bustamante who, with Antonio "Nickoy" Lining, won the gold medal in the 9-ball doubles event of the Busan Asiad just recently.

For Immonen, the loss came just two months after Efren "Bata" Reyes, Bustamante's pal and Puyat Sports teammate, defeated him in the International Challenge of Champions in Connecticut via the same one-rack, sudden-death game. Immonen settled for $5,000.

"This is for baby and to my country," Bustamante told his sponsor, Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, in a phone call right after the match. Baby was Marielle, Bustamante's 7-month-old daughter who died while he was in Cardiff, U.K., for the WPA World 9-Ball Championship last July.

Only eight players were invited to the 7-ball tournament: Bustamante, Immonen, Earl Strickland (USA), Michael Coltrain (USA), Rodney Morris (USA), Corey Deuel (USA), Troy Frank (USA) and Luc Salvas (Canada).

Bustamante went to the finals by beating Salvas who scored an upset win against Deuel, the defending champion. Immonen defeated Strickland to earn the right to meet Bustamante in the championship match.

Immonen raced to a 7-3 victory in the first set, but Bustamante dominated the second set to match Immonen's 7-3 win and force the one-rack sudden death for the title. Bustamante won the lag for the final rack and Immonen would not reach the table again as Bustamante pocketed the 4-ball with his break, and displaying steel nerves, ran out the rest of the rack for the title.

Buenavista cracks nat'l, SEAG marks

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Eduardo Buenavista couldn't win, but he could break records.

Pitted against Middle East runners that look more like African imports, Buenavista placed only 9th among 13 qualifiers in the 5,000m run of the 14th Asian Games athletics competition at the Main Stadium here.

He became the first Filipino to break the 14-minute barrier, clocking 13.58.43 seconds that erased the 7-year record set by Hector Begeo in Melbourne, Australia. It also surpassed the 14:08.97 Southeast Asian Games standard owned by Malaysia's Murusamy Ramachandran.

Saudi Arabia's Al Otaibi Makhid, the 10,000m champion, made it a double by topping the event in 13:41.48.

"I'm proud of Buenavista. Just give him some more time and he'll be competitive even by Asiad standards," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, explaining that Buenavista was the lone Southeast Asian entry.

On Monday, Buenavista, a double-gold medalist in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, also shattered the 10,000m national mark posted by his coach, Mario Castro, 22 years ago by clocking 29:02.36, the first time for a Filipino to hurdle the 30-minute barrier. It was better than Ramachandran's 29:47.79 set in Chiangmai, Thailand.

Another Filipino, Sean Guevarra, cleared the bar at 2.05m, sharing 14th place in the high jump won by South Korean Lee Jin-Taek in 2.23m. Two Chinese-Wang Zhou Zhou and Cui Kay-and Korean Kim Tae Hoi shared the silver by jumping 2.19m.

2 Filipina jins assured of bronzes

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN—The luck of the draw worked wonders for taekwondo jins Veronica Domingo and Sally Solis yesterday as they got assured of bronze medals, easing the pain of seeing top Roberto Cruz crashed out right in the first round of competitions in the 14th Asian Games here.

Domingo, a 5-foot-8 charmer, drew a first round bye and with only five entries in the welterweight class, is assured of the bronze even if she loses to Korean Kim Su Ok today at the Gudeok Sports Complex.

Middleweight Solis enjoys the same situation when she battles China's Z. Chien tomorrow.

Cruz, six time Southeast Asian Games finweight champion, lost to Tajikistan's Matin Boboez amid biased officiating that infuriated Filipino players and coaches who have threatened to pelt the mat with rubbish were it not for the intercession of head coach Noli Gabriel.

"*Pinigil ko lang, galit na galit lahat dahil sa sobrang bias ng* referee," said Gabriel after Boboek was declared winner by superiority following a 9-9 deadlock at the end of three rounds.

Other than the officiating, Cruz is partly to blame. He was ahead 9-7, with barely 30 seconds left in the third and final round. But instead of moving away, he opted to mix it up, giving Boboek the opportunity to counter and force the stand off.

Former champion and movie actor Monsour Del Rosario claimed Kitoy (Cruz) should have won by two points if the referees counted his hard kick to the jaw that staggered late in the third round.

Lightweight Alexander Briones and Sydney Olympian Eva Marie Ditan, also a finweight, hurdled the first-round matches but exited in the second.

Briones trounced Nepal's Shrestha Niranjan, 12-3, but yielded to Kazakhstan's Yerden Yesbol, 4-6.

Ditan lost to Chinese 6-footer Wang Ying, 0-3, after dumping Bhutan's Kinley Gidha, 2-0, in the first round.

2002 Busan Asian Games
DREAM 4 GOLD

Strongest man

BUSAN, South Korea–Iran's Hossein Rezazadeh, the strongest man in the world, lifted a combined 440kg at the Asian Games on Thursday as if it was a feather.

The 2000 Sydney Olympic champion and world record holder made light work of his opponents in the superheavyweight showdown (+105kg) to win the Asian Games gold medal.

Rezazadeh, who said a short prayer to a Muslim prophet renowned for his warrior qualities before every lift, totalled 440 kg (200-240kg).

Igor Halilov, runner up four years ago in Bangkok, collected his second straight silver medal with a total of 405kg. Munehiro Morita of Japan took the bronze on 375kg.

The main drama of the event was Rezazadeh's attempt to lift 263kg in the clean and jerk, which would have been the heaviest ever in weightlifting history.

He managed to clean the bar to his chest but failed to hoist it overhead.

"I was confident of setting the world record," said Rezazadeh. "But during the lift I had a spasm in my left leg and could not complete it." Tamas Ajan, president of the International Weightlifting Federation, praised Rezazadeh for his attempt on the world record.

"Nobody in the history of the sport has lifted 263kg - it would have been a fantastic achievement," he said. "He came close and I am sure the record will be his before long." The 24-year-old Rezazadeh, who was Asian junior champion just five years ago, added that he would attempt the record again at the World Championships in Warsaw next month.

"I am aiming for the gold and the clean and jerk world record at the World Championships," said Rezazadeh, who set the world marks in the snatch and total at the the Sydney Olympics.

"I ask the people of Iran to pray for me to break the record next month." The Iranian weighed in at a colossal 156kg, 9kgs hier than when he won the Olympic title in 2000.

On that occasion he equalled the heaviest lift in 80 years of Olympic weightlifting, a massive 260kg, to defeat two legends of the sport, Germany's Ronny Weller and 1996 Atlanta Olympic champion Andrei Chemerkin of Russia.

Rezazadeh did not need any superhuman lifts to take gold this time but he still put on a breathtaking display. He lifted 190kg, roughly equivalent to a couple of fridges, in the snatch with casual ease and hoisted 200kg with similar effortlessness.

With little competition, Rezazadeh elected to stop at that weight rather than try and beat his own world record of 212.5kg, set two years ago in Sydney.

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ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	126	62	54	242
South Korea	66	63	70	199
Japan	39	64	56	159
Kazakhstan	14	16	20	50
Thailand	9	11	7	27
India	9	8	8	25
Chinese Taipei	7	13	18	38
N. Korea	7	11	11	29
Uzbekistan	7	8	12	27
Singapore	5	2	9	16
Saudi Arabia	5	1	0	6
Qatar	4	5	4	13
Hong Kong	4	3	9	16
Iran	3	7	12	22
Malaysia	3	7	8	18
Indonesia	2	6	7	15
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Vietnam	2	3	4	9
Bahrain	2	2	2	6
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	4
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	10	12
Kuwait	1	0	1	2
Lebanon	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	5	5	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	4	8
Pakistan	0	2	5	7
Tajikistan	0	2	1	3
United Arab Emirates	0	2	1	3
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1
Yemen	0	0	1	1
Jordan	0	0	1	1
Nepal	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
4 19 40 41 47 49

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SUERTRES 5 6 5
SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 3 6 4 9 8 5

3-DAY ASIAD DROUGHT

No medal again for RP

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—There was no medal again yesterday for the Philippines and the day was blackened all the more when a biased referee caused the ouster of Olympian Roberto Cruz in the 14th Asian Games here.

The medal drought is now three days old but that will end today when taekwondo jin Veronica Domingo battles Kin Su-Ok even as Eduardo Buenavista broke both the Philippine and Southeast Asian Games record in the 5,000m run.

All Domingo has to do is show up for her match to assure herself of a bronze medal in the welterweight class–win or lose.

That's because Domingo earned the luck of the draw when she got the semifinal berth.

Cruz, the six-time SEA Games champion and a veteran of the Sydney Olympics, was declared loser by superiority, following a 9-9 deadlock in the first round against Tajiskistan's Matin Boboek.

The referee's decision irked RP officials, coaches and players and pandemonium almost broke loose were it not for the timely intercession of cooler heads led by head coach Noli Gabriel.

Taekwondo employs a unique scoring system wherein the referee has the absolute power to pick the winner in case the fight ends in a deadlock.

But Cruz's setback was partly of his own undoing.

Instead of simply dancing away the remaining 30 seconds from harm's way after he has built a 9-7 margin, Cruz still decided to mix it up with Boboek.

The Filipino was struck twice in the infighting as the rallying opponent forced the 9-9 standoff at the bell.

Cruz's two teammates--Alexander Briones and Sydney Olympian Eva Marie Ditan - also crashed out after winning the initial bouts.

Diver Shiela May Perez placed a strong fourth in diving and the Sydney Olympian found consolation by emerging the first among Southeast Asian competitors.

The 17-year-old Perez was beaten by Japan's Ryoko Ushi in the event won by China whose entry swept the first two places in runaway fashion.

Ushi scored 485.790 while Perez had 477.570.

China's Go Jingjing tallied 629.400 for the gold while her teammate Wu Minxia submitted 609.150.

With an unabated medal drought, the Filipino clung on to 17th overall with 11 medals (2 golds, three silver and six bronzes). Vietnam was No. 18 but Indonesia surpassed the Philippines with its 2-6-6 record.

Unstoppable China continued to pull away at 126-62-53 followed by South Korea 65-63-69 and Japan's 39-64-56.

Wushu's Marvin Sicomen, Rexel Nanhaina and Joseph Pasiwat hurdled their respective rivals to stay in the running.

Buenavista clocked 13:58.43 in finishing 9th among 13 entries to surpass previous records of 14:08.97 and 14:00.26, respectively in the SEAG and the Philippine athletics.

High jumper Sean Guevarra cleared 2.05 meters to finish 14th in his event.

CRUZ (right) connects with a turning back kick against Boboek during their preliminary match but the Filipino lost. JESS YUSON

After Busan, Django wins in Baltimore

ASIAD gold medalist Francisco "Django" Bustamante continued his winning ways, defeating Mika Immonen of Finland in their sudden-death, one-rack final to win the 7-ball championship at the ESPN Zone in Baltimore, Maryland, Wednesday.

Bustamante pocketed $25,000 (P1.3 million) after his 3-7, 7-3, 1-0 triumph over Immonen.

The victory was sweet for Bustamante who, with Antonio "Nickoy" Lining, won the gold medal in the 9-ball doubles event of the Busan Asiad just recently.

For Immonen, the loss came just two months after Efren "Bata" Reyes, Bustamante's pal and Puyat Sports teammate, defeated him in the International Challenge of Champions in Connecticut via the same one-rack, sudden-death game. Immonen settled for $5,000.

"This is for baby and to my country," Bustamante told his sponsor, Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, in a phone call right after the match. Baby was Marielle, Bustamante's 7-month-old daughter who died while he was in Cardiff, U.K., for the WPA World 9-Ball Championship last July.

Only eight players were invited to the 7-ball tournament: Bustamante, Immonen, Earl Strickland (USA), Michael Coltrain (USA), Rodney Morris (USA), Corey Deuel (USA), Troy Frank (USA) and Luc Salvas (Canada).

Bustamante went to the finals by beating Salvas who scored an upset win against Deuel, the defending champion. Immonen defeated Strickland to earn the right to meet Bustamante in the championship match.

Immonen raced to a 7-3 victory in the first set, but Bustamante dominated the second set to match Immonen's 7-3 win and force the one-rack sudden death for the title. Bustamante won the lag for the final rack and Immonen would not reach the table again as Bustamante pocketed the 4-ball with his break, and displaying steel nerves, ran out the rest of the rack for the title.

Buenavista cracks nat'l, SEAG marks

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Eduardo Buenavista couldn't win, but he could break records.

Pitted against Middle East runners that look more like African imports, Buenavista placed only 9th among 13 qualifiers in the 5,000m run of the 14th Asian Games athletics competition at the Main Stadium here.

He became the first Filipino to break the 14-minute barrier, clocking 13.58.43 seconds that erased the 7-year record set by Hector Begeo in Melbourne, Australia. It also surpassed the 14:08.97 Southeast Asian Games standard owned by Malaysia's Murusamy Ramachandran.

Saudi Arabia's Al Otaibi Makhid, the 10,000m champion, made it a double by topping the event in 13:41.48.

"I'm proud of Buenavista. Just give him some more time and he'll be competitive even by Asiad standards," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, explaining that Buenavista was the lone Southeast Asian entry.

On Monday, Buenavista, a double-gold medalist in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, also shattered the 10,000m national mark posted by his coach, Mario Castro, 22 years ago by clocking 29:02.36, the first time for a Filipino to hurdle the 30-minute barrier. It was better than Ramachandran's 29:47.79 set in Chiangmai, Thailand.

Another Filipino, Sean Guevarra, cleared the bar at 2.05m, sharing 14th place in the high jump won by South Korean Lee Jin-Taek in 2.23m. Two Chinese Wang Zhou Zhou and Cui Kay- and Korean Kim Tae Hoi shared the silver by jumping 2.19m.

2 Filipina jins assured of bronzes

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN—The luck of the draw worked wonders for taekwondo jins Veronica Domingo and Sally Solis yesterday as they got assured of bronze medals, easing the pain of seeing top Roberto Cruz crashed out right in the first round of competitions in the 14th Asian Games here.

Domingo, a 5-foot-8 charmer, drew a first round bye and with only five entries in the welterweight class, is assured of the bronze even if she loses to Korean Kim Su Ok today at the Gudeok Sports Complex.

Middleweight Solis enjoys the same situation when she battles China's Z. Chien tomorrow.

Cruz, six time Southeast Asian Games finweight champion, lost to Tajikistan's Matin Boboez amid biased officiating that infuriated Filipino players and coaches who have threatened to pelt the mat with rubbish were it not for the intercession of head coach Noli Gabriel.

"*Pinigil ko lang, galit na galit lahat dahil sa sobrang bias ng* referee," said Gabriel after Boboek was declared winner by superiority following a 9-9 deadlock at the end of three rounds.

Other than the officiating, Cruz is partly to blame. He was ahead 9-7, with barely 30 seconds left in the third and final round. But instead of moving away, he opted to mix it up, giving Boboek the opportunity to counter and force the stand off.

Former champion and movie actor Monsour Del Rosario claimed Kitoy (Cruz) should have won by two points if the referees counted his hard kick to the jaw that staggered late in the third round.

Lightweight Alexander Briones and Sydney Olympian Eva Marie Ditan, also a finweight, hurdled the first-round matches but exited in the second.

Briones trounced Nepal's Shrestha Niranjan, 12-3, but yielded to Kazakhstan's Yerden Yesbol, 4-6.

Ditan lost to Chinese 6-footer Wang Ying, 0-3, after dumping Bhutan's Kinley Gidha, 2-0, in the first round.

2002 Busan Asian Games
DREAM 4 GOLD

Strongest man

BUSAN, South Korea–Iran's Hossein Rezazadeh, the strongest man in the world, lifted a combined 440kg at the Asian Games on Thursday as if it was a feather.

The 2000 Sydney Olympic champion and world record holder made light work of his opponents in the superheavyweight showdown (+105kg) to win the Asian Games gold medal.

Rezazadeh, who said a short prayer to a Muslim prophet renowned for his warrior qualities before every lift, totalled 440 kg (200-240kg).

Igor Halilov, runner up four years ago in Bangkok, collected his second straight silver medal with a total of 405kg. Munehiro Morita of Japan took the bronze on 375kg.

The main drama of the event was Rezazadeh's attempt to lift 263kg in the clean and jerk, which would have been the heaviest ever in weightlifting history.

He managed to clean the bar to his chest but failed to hoist it overhead.

"I was confident of setting the world record," said Rezazadeh. "But during the lift I had a spasm in my left leg and could not complete it." Tamas Ajan, president of the International Weightlifting Federation, praised Rezazadeh for his attempt on the world record.

"Nobody in the history of the sport has lifted 263kg - it would have been a fantastic achievement," he said. "He came close and I am sure the record will be his before long." The 24-year-old Rezazadeh, who was Asian junior champion just five years ago, added that he would attempt the record again at the World Championships in Warsaw next month.

"I am aiming for the gold and the clean and jerk world record at the World Championships," said Rezazadeh, who set the world marks in the snatch and total at the the Sydney Olympics.

"I ask the people of Iran to pray for me to break the record next month." The Iranian weighed in at a colossal 156kg, 9kgs hier than when he won the Olympic title in 2000.

On that occasion he equalled the heaviest lift in 80 years of Olympic weightlifting, a massive 260kg, to defeat two legends of the sport, Germany's Ronny Weller and 1996 Atlanta Olympic champion Andrei Chemerkin of Russia.

Rezazadeh did not need any superhuman lifts to take gold this time but he still put on a breathtaking display. He lifted 190kg, roughly equivalent to a couple of fridges, in the snatch with casual ease and hoisted 200kg with similar effortlessness.

With little competition, Rezazadeh elected to stop at that weight rather than try and beat his own world record of 212.5kg, set two years ago in Sydney.

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adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	126	62	54	242
South Korea	66	63	70	199
Japan	39	64	56	159
Kazakhstan	14	16	20	50
Thailand	9	11	7	27
India	9	8	8	25
Chinese Taipei	7	13	18	38
N. Korea	7	11	11	29
Uzbekistan	7	8	12	27
Singapore	5	2	9	16
Saudi Arabia	5	1	0	6
Qatar	4	5	4	13
Hong Kong	4	3	9	16
Iran	3	7	12	22
Malaysia	3	7	8	18
Indonesia	2	6	7	15
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Vietnam	2	3	4	9
Bahrain	2	2	2	6
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	4
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	10	12
Kuwait	1	0	1	2
Lebanon	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	5	5	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	4	8
Pakistan	0	2	5	7
Tajikistan	0	2	1	3
United Arab Emirates	0	2	1	3
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1
Yemen	0	0	1	1
Jordan	0	0	1	1
Nepal	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

ASIAD BASKETBALL

RP mission: Stop SK's 'Fighting 5'

GAMES TOMORROW
3 p.m.–RP vs South Korea
7 p.m.–China vs Kazakhstan

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—South Korea is basically a five-man basketball team.

In their last two games, the hosts' Fighting Five combined for 132 points as they topped their quarterfinal bracket without much trouble.

The perimeter is where the Koreans operate best.

In tomorrow's RP-South Korea battle for the right to meet China for the basketball gold on Monday, the Filipinos must concentrate on Moon Kyung-eon (No. 10), Lee Sang-min (14), Seo Jang-hoon (11), Chun Hee-chul (13) and Kim Joo-sung (15).

The five Koreans totaled for 72 points when Korea beat Kazakhstan on Wednesday, 114-98, to arrange the crucial encounter with the Philippines tomorrow.

Before that, Moon, Lee, Seo, Chun and Kim collected a total of 62 points when the Koreans overwhelmed Japan, 79-62, in the preliminaries.

Add two more—Chong Sang-hyun (7) and Hyun Joo-yup (9)—and that practically completes the Korean team, which also comprised the backbone of the Korean squad that clinched the silver in Bangkok four years ago.

For the last two days, the Filipinos have been viewing tapes involving games of the Koreans inside the hotel room of PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, the RP team manager.

"*Malakas ang kanilang* transition game (They have a strong transition game)," said Allan Caidic, a four-time Asian Gamer in 1986, 1990, 1994 and 1998. "They love to penetrate and then kick the ball to their outside shooters."

Caidic, coach Jong Uichico's chief assistant, said he takes special interest in tomorrow's game because a win over the Koreans would help erase the memory of the country's defeat to Korea in 1986 in Seoul—a loss that he was partly responsible for.

"I was slapped a charging foul," said Caidic and the turnover keyed the win for the Koreans. But Korea lost to China in the finals, with the Philippines salvaging the bronze.

The Filipinos did not meet the Koreans in the 1990 Beijing Asiad (RP was second) and in the 1994 Hiroshima Games (RP was fourth).

Caidic said he was aching to atone for that 1986 turnover when the Filipinos battle the Koreans in Bangkok four years ago, only to be frustrated by Korea's Fighting Five whose perimeter sharpness clobbered the Filipinos, 103-83.

After losing to China in the crossover semifinals, the Philippines, starring Jojo Lastimosa, beat Kazakhstan a second time in the series, 73-68, to clinch the bronze medal.

Equestriennes see action

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino equestrian riders will begin their campaign in the 14th Asian Games here today feeling light and confident.

Reason: They finished in a tie for first place with Japan and South Korea on Wednesday's "friendly," which did not count.

"It's just a friendly, but it's good for horse and rider," said Sydney Olympian Antoinette "Toni" Leviste of the event which lured 40 riders from 10 countries. "The outcome was a big confidence booster for us."

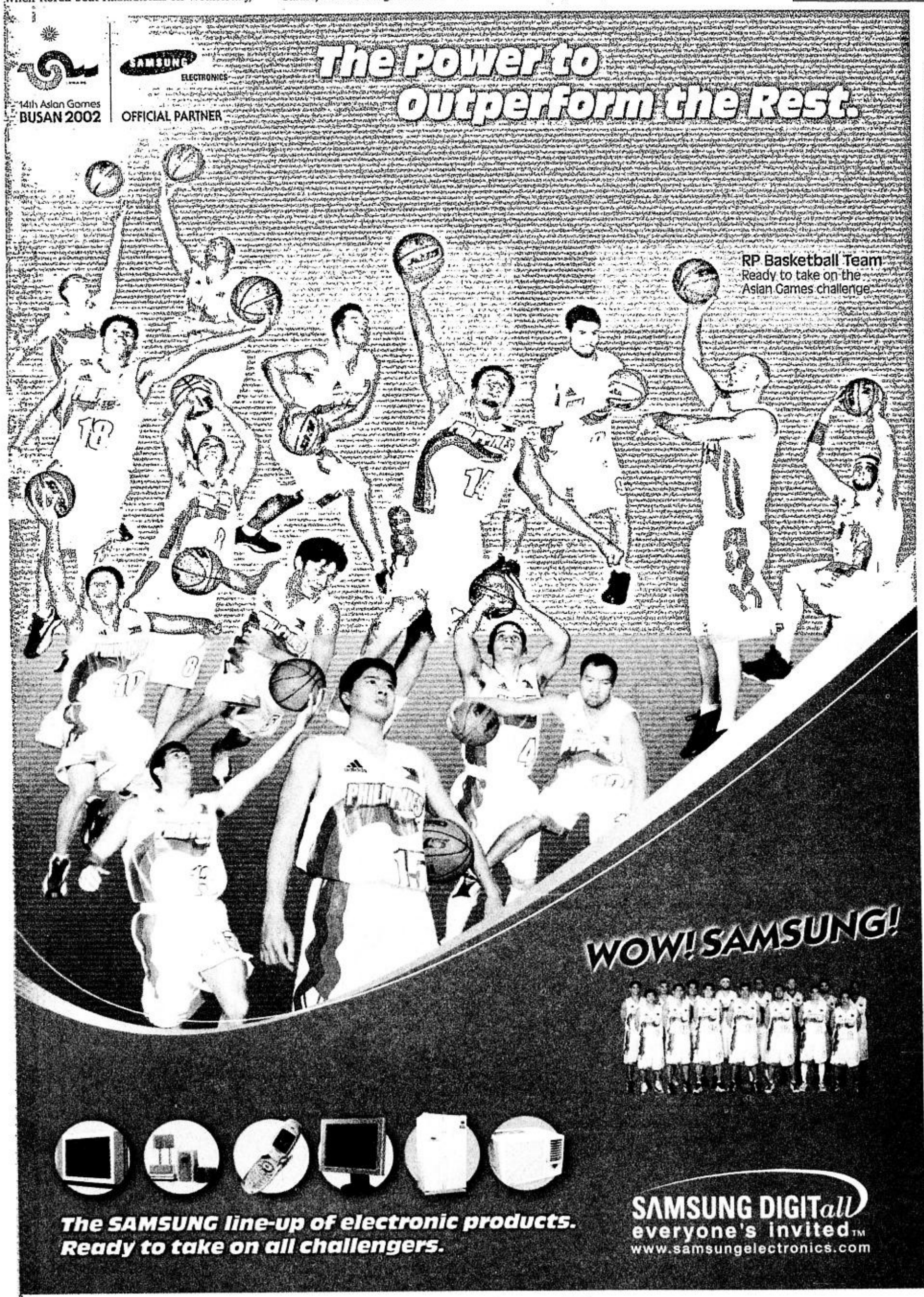
The other riders are Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Michelle Barrera, Danielle Cojuangco and Paola Cojuangco.

Leviste, who finished 68th in the world championship in Jerez, Spain, atop Nazli, a 12-year-old chestnut filly, picks the Japanese, Koreans and Iranians as their main rivals.

Although she started riding Nazli only seven weeks ago in Jerez, Leviste said she doesn't expect to have any problem with her. "She's my type of horse. She has a strong character. She's not easy to ride but we're going along fine."

Leviste clocked 87.21 seconds in the "friendly" while Jaworski and Danielle Cojuangco timed 88.81 and 94.20 seconds, respectively.

Mikee Cojuangco, married to Sen. Robert Jaworski's son Dodot, and her nieces Danielle, Paola and Michelle are confident of doing well in the jumping team and individual competitions which end on Monday.



SPORTSWATCH

Giants take edge

ST. LOUIS—Benito Santiago had three hits, including a two-run homer, and drove in four runs to steer the San Francisco Giants to a 9-6 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in Game One of the National League Championship Series on Wednesday. The Giants took home field advantage away from the Cardinals in the series opener, with Game Two again at Busch Stadium on Thursday. *Reuters*

Angels make it 1-1

MINNEAPOLIS—Brad Fullmer and Darin Erstad both homered and had two hits to guide the Anaheim Angels to a 6-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday, tying the American League Championship Series at 1-1. The Angels grabbed a 4-0 lead in the second inning and went on to survive a three-run Twins comeback in the seventh. Game Three is in Anaheim on Friday. *Reuters*

Capriati booted out

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Top seed Jennifer Capriati was stunned, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4, by qualifier Alexandra Stevenson in the second round of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix on Wednesday. It was Stevenson's second win over Capriati this year, following an earlier victory in Sydney in January. "I didn't serve very well at all, but I had a little bit of an edge on her today," said Stevenson. *Reuters*

Pasay derby tonight

BIG names in cockfighting are competing tonight in Pasay City Cockpit's special 4-stag derby. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000. Derby host is veteran derbyist Julie Cui. Among the participants are Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, Jake Macasaet, OPMI president Vic Yu, Blandy Tolentino, Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu, ASF, Wilson Go, William Co, Emil Chua and Cito Manansala. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Karting series slated

CEBU CITY—It's all systems go for the seventh leg of the 2002 Shell Super Karting Series dubbed as the WG&A Cebu Kart Prix this weekend at the KartZone here in Kasambagan. Some 25 karters from Manila are joining the meet sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, WG&A Super Ferry, Bridgestone, Nokia, Zip-zip, ZED and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Chairman Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon and general manager Angelo Ver. Hometown bets Jan Jan Gonzales and Jess Garica are expected to shine in the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP). Gonzales is a former Jet Ski Rider of the Year.

Yao Ming-Rockets deal

HOUSTON—The Houston Rockets have reached a verbal agreement with towering Chinese center Yao Ming, the number one selection in this year's NBA draft, Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson said on Wednesday. Before the 22-year-old Yao can join the Rockets the deal must be approved by the Chinese Basketball Association and that is expected to be granted at the end of the Asian Games, where Yao helped China into the semifinals. According to reports in the Houston and Chinese media the deal is for four years, includes a club option, and is worth $18 million. *Reuters*

19 Days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Boston's Bill Russell once pulled down a record 19 rebounds in one quarter of an NBA Playoffs game against the LA Lakers on April 18, 1962?

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Test Run 2. Jackpot 3. Double Header
Race 3—1. Kay Gee Em Ey 2. Tumataginting 3. Bumper to Bumper
Race 4—1. Diskarte 2. Dear Elane 3. Bakasan
Race 5—1. Tower of Power 2. Red Thunder 3. Mister Cool 4. Spectacular Lady 5. Holy King
Race 6—1. Maximo 2. Impeccable 3. El Magnifico
Race 7—1. Sperocosta 2. Moore Magic 3. Express Strike 4. Eden's Quest 5. Bring Home D Bacon
Race 8—1. Boogie Shoes 2. Top Dancer 3. Howard Huge 4. Carte Blanche 5. Lucky Strike 6. Storm Dancer
Race 9—1. Naughty 2. Schwarzenegger 3. Golden Disc 4. Cherry Lane 5. Mr. Lucas
Race 10—1. Noor 2. Sun and Sea 3. Princess Inn 4. Nice Time 5. Virgin Atlantic 6. Top Most

Karate's 'best bet' starts quest

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Gretchen Malalad and Cherley Tugday, the country's only lady bets in karatedo, begin their quest for gold today in the 14th Asian Games here.

The three male karatekas—Ernesto Halili, Ryan Bonifacio Mariano and Junel Perania—will not see action until tomorrow.

Coach David Lay, who won one of two karatedo bronzes in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad, said: "Gretchen is our best bet for the gold medal."

Karatedo

The 22-year-old and 5-foot-6 Malalad whose whistle-bait figure and movie-idol looks hide the façade of a ferocious karateka in her, battles Thailand's Vipavee Charagrang at 3:30 p.m. today in the 60-kg kumite.

A win will push Malalad to the second round where she will need one more win to vie for the gold medal.

All three victories will have to be scored in one day, making karatedo one of the toughest in the 38-event, 44-nation Games that began in New Delhi in 1951.

There are only seven entries in Malalad's division, giving the Filipino beauty good chances of hauling in another medal for the now medal-starved country with five days remaining in the calendar.

Tugday, competing in the 53kg kumite, has a tough opponent today at 9 a.m. in Japan's Atsuko Wakai, a many-time world champion.

"She wasn't lucky in the draw," said Lay of Tugday. "But if she loses, she still has a chance to recover by winning her match in the repechage."

RP SKED IN BUSAN

Oct. 11, 2002 (Korea time 1 hr. ahead of RP time)

Canoeing 9 a.m.—L. Escollante, K-1 500m ;9:30 a.m.—A. Peñalosa, K-2 500m ; 3 p.m.—K-1 500m; 3:15 p.m.—K-2 500m; **Equestrian** 9 to 12 noon.—M. Barrera, D. Cojuangco, P. Cojuangco, M. Jaworski, A. Leviste, showjumping; **Karatedo** 9 to 11 a.m.—C. Tugday, women's taka, individual; 2:45 to 2:55 p.m.—Women's kata, individual; 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.—G. Malalad, 60kg, women's kumite; **Taekwondo** 2 to 9 p.m.—T. Go vs F. Fayziev, Tajikistan, men's flyweight; D. Cordero vs. T. Tshomo, Bhutan, women's flyweight; V. Domingo, women's welterweight, first rd to finals; **Wushu** 9 to 10:30 a.m.—B. Co, taijiquan; 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—J. Hung, changquan; 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.—L. So, nanquan ; 2 to 4:30 p.m.—M. Sicomen, 52 kg; R. Nganhayna, 56kg; J Pasiwat, 60 kg; E Folayang, 65 kg, sanshou

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59-WING VANS — ISUZU CXM71 WING VAN
50-TRACTOR HEADS — ISUZU EX2 TRACTOR
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Asiad roundup: Ace Sri Lankan runner misses sprints sweep

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—China added canoeing to its ways of winning Asian Games gold medals on water. Sri Lankan runner Susantika Jayasinghe added a missed chance for a sprint sweep to her list of troubles.

Jayasinghe, often Asia's fastest but never an Asian Games gold medalist before she won the 100 Tuesday, dropped out of the 200 Thursday with a hamstring injury.

While she missed a chance for the 100-200 sprint double she wanted, India accomplished a triple in track and field.

Saraswati Saha—who said she had come to beat Jayasinghe—won the 200 by 0.06 seconds as China's Ni Xiaoli nearly caught her at the tape.

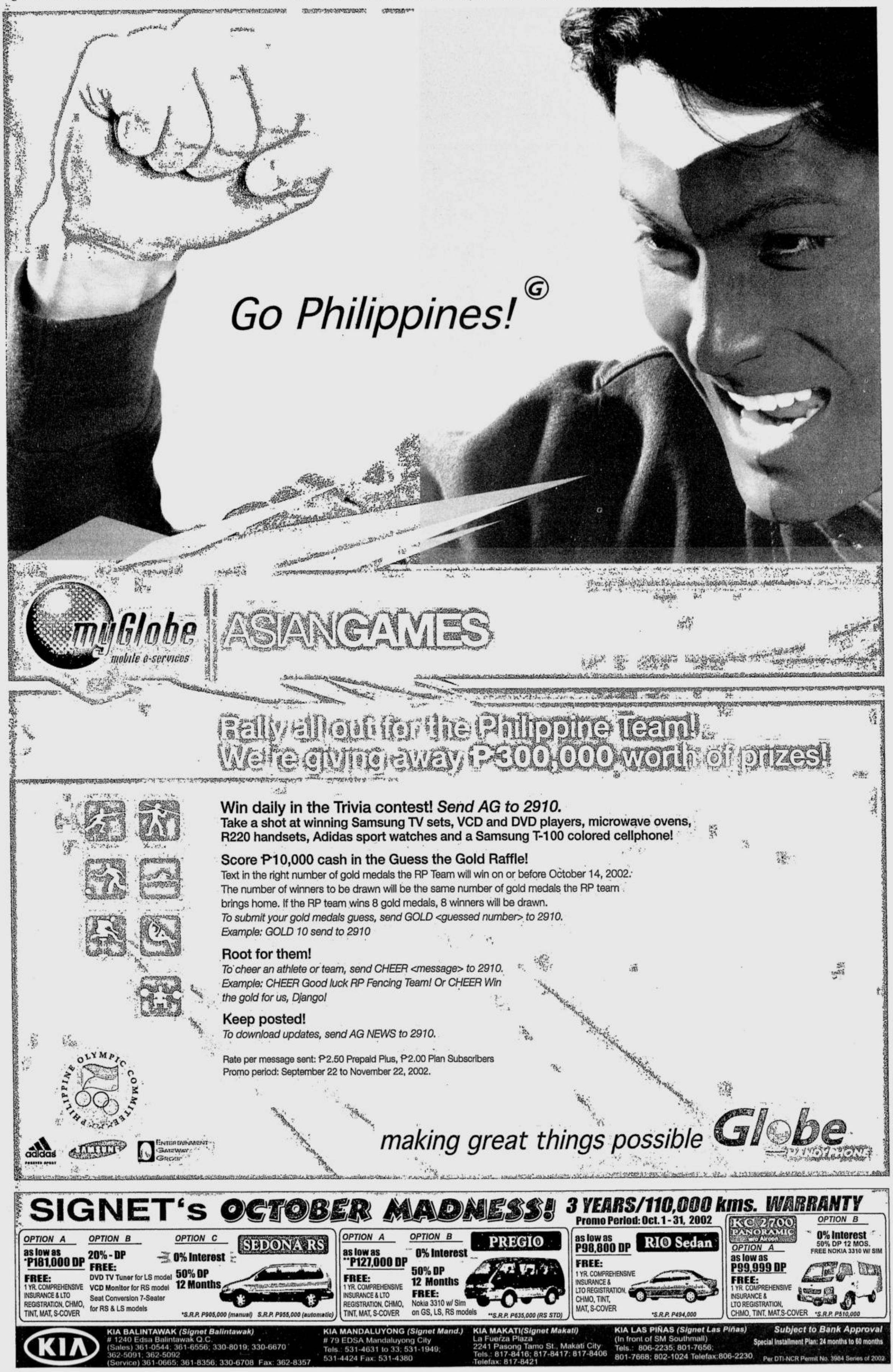
Sunita Rani won the women's 1,500 and Neelam Jaswant Singh won the women's discus throw.

India also advanced to gold medal matches in men's field hockey and men's tennis doubles. The hockey team beat archrival Pakistan 4-3 and will play in Saturday's final against South Korea, a 3-0 winner over Malaysia. The former No. 1 tennis pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi play their final Friday.

On the track, Saudi Arabia's Makhld Al-Otaibi scored a distance double, adding gold in the men's 5,000 to his victory Monday in the 10,000. Saudi Arabia now has five golds, all in athletics.

Japan's Shingo Suetsugu won the men's 200, comfortably ahead of Kazakhstan's Gennadiy Chernovol, and Feng Yun led a 1-2 Chinese finish in the women's 100-meter hurdles.

While China was overshadowed in the athletics stadium, its canoe racers collected four gold medals, lifting their total to 125.



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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

PROTEST FOR PEACE
Members of the Migrante group of overseas workers and their families call for peace in the Middle East in a rally at the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

Witness saw ambush, cops say

By Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning

THE MANILA police yesterday insisted that they have a witness who saw two men ambush Victor Macaldo, the suspect in the Chika Go murder, even as they dismissed allegations that Macaldo's killing was a summary execution.

Investigators are getting the statement of a security guard who could confirm that there was an ambush, said Detective Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section.

Villareal said he is inclined to believe the statements of Macaldo's police escorts since no witness has come forward to challenge their claims.

"And (PO2 Leslie Teodoro Bautista) himself has admitted that he shot Macaldo," Villareal said.

Bautista had said he was forced to shoot Macaldo because the latter grabbed another police escort's gun during the alleged ambush about 8 a.m. Tuesday on Romualdez Street in Ermita, Manila.

Bautista, SPO3 Mario Mateo, and PO2 Jonathan Ruiz were escorting Macaldo to the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court when the ambushed happened.

Police said two men on board a yellow Yamaha motorcycle, with no license plates, drove alongside the jeep and opened fire at its occupants.

The policemen were busy firing back at the ambushers when Macaldo grabbed the gun of PO2 Ruiz, who was driving the jeep.

Bautista shot Macaldo.

"As of now, we are still looking for witness who might give a different version," Villareal said.

SPO3 Mateo, PO2 Ruiza and PO2 Bautista are facing investigation for alleged summary execution of Macaldo. Villareal said they would be charged with homicide if evidence would be found against them.

Last Tuesday, reporters were confused about the venue of Macaldo's arraignment because of an inaccuracy in the police report.

The incident report, prepared on the same day by the WPD district police intelligence unit (DPIU), said Macaldo tried to escape while he was being escorted to his "scheduled arraignment at Branch 14 Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila" for gun possession.

The WPD director, Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, told reporters in a briefing that the court is located at the Old GSIS annex on Arroceros Street behind City Hall.

The report of SPO2 Villareal, which was based on the DPIU report prepared by DPIU head Supt. Rodolfo Llorca, also said the hearing was to take place at Branch 14.

But when the reporters checked, they found out that Branch 14 is in the fire department building on Ongpin Street in Binondo.

The reporters went to Ongpin only to find out from a member of the Branch 14 court staff that no case had been filed there against Macaldo and that no criminal case hearing had taken place there on the day he was killed.

A further check with the MTC over-all clerk of court's office showed that an arraignment had been set for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday before Judge Rosanna Fe Romero-Maglaya of Branch 19 at the Old GSIS annex building.

Aside from being tried for the Go murder, which happened in August, and the case of gun possession, Macaldo was also on trial for a robbery with homicide and frustrated homicide in a separate court.

The city prosecutor's office is also hearing cases of robbery with holdup and a robbery with homicide that the police had filed against him.

Reporters confused over venue of arraignment

Red, white lines for Edsa

By Leila B. Salaverria

INSTEAD of watching for "loading" and "no-loading" signs, drivers of buses on Edsa will have to look for red and white markings painted on the side of the road to guide them where to stop and not to stop.

Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, red and white "edge lines" would soon be painted along the Edsa gutter. White edge lines will designate the area where buses are allowed to load and unload passengers, while red edge lines will identify the no-loading and no-unloading areas.

The area 30 meters before and after an intersection will have red edge lines, which means buses can't stop there.

The rest of the length of Edsa will be designated "*zona libres*" and will be painted with white edge lines, which means buses can load and unload passengers there.

The MMDA has designated two of Edsa's lanes as bus lanes. The one closest to the sidewalk is the loading and unloading lane, and the one next to it is the bus passing lane.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando earlier said he would allow buses to load and unload passengers anywhere along Edsa, but passengers could get off and demand a refund of their fare if they got tired of waiting for the bus to move.

Bench hunters go to provinces

By Philip Tubeza

IN SEARCH of Manila's missing benches, members of the Western Police District (WPD) have gone as far as Nueva Ecija and Pampanga provinces on orders of their director, Pedro Bulaong.

Twenty-five benches, not 28 as earlier reported, were stolen from the promenade along Roxas Boulevard in Manila about three weeks ago.

"Don't come back without the benches," Bulaong told his men.

A witness had told police that the benches were loaded into an Isuzu pick-up truck.

The witness also gave authorities the plate number of the pick-up.

Policemen traced the pick-up's ownership to Belinda Palilio of Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

But when they went to see Palilio, her relatives told police the pick-up had been sold six years ago and that Palilio had gone to the US.

Reports that the truck was seen in Lubao, Pampanga proved to be false, investigators said.

But the policemen are still confident they would find the benches.

"We're checking other leads," said SPO2 Matio Torrente of the WPD Theft and Robbery Section.

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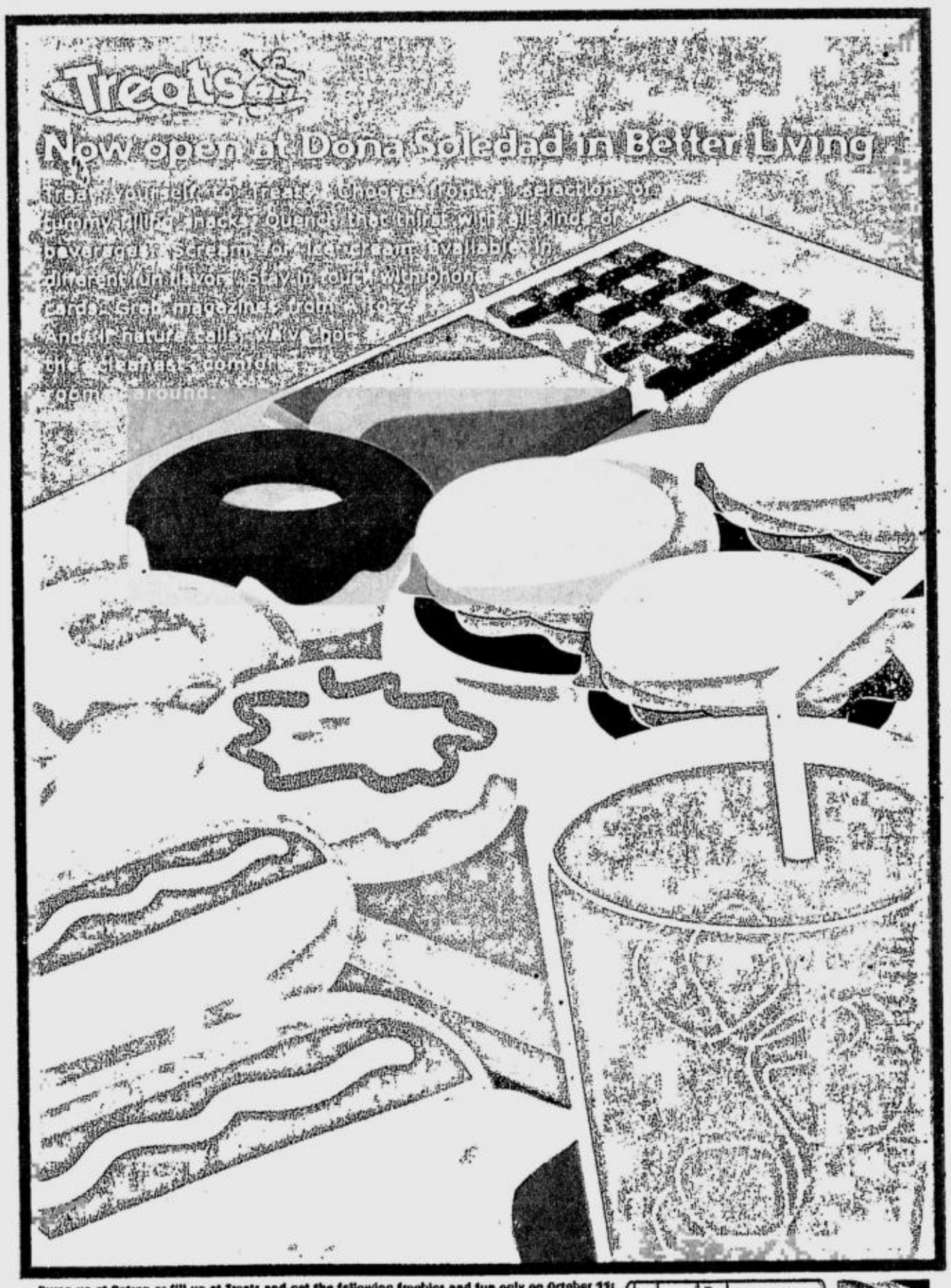

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5 men plan to tunnel out of prison, NBP says

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRISON officials are eyeing at least five inmates as the ones who created the escape tunnel right underneath the maximum security compound of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

Ricardo Macala, Bureau of Corrections director, yesterday said the suspects are all from the heavily guarded compound, including Death Row.

Macala said the suspects, whom he refused to name, are now under close watch by jail officers.

Initial investigation showed that the short tunnel found between the chapels of the Iglesia ni Kristo and Seventh Day Adventist was to be used by Death Row inmates, according to the prisons director.

"The inmates wanted to connect the tunnel to the sewer system so they could escape from the compound," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Because of the breach of NBP regulations, Macala said he had ordered a re-election among the four "brigades" at Building 1-Dormitory C for the position of prison "mayor."

The building houses 317 inmates, 99 of whom are scheduled for execution, he said.

"Whenever there's a breach of regulation, we always hold the mayors accountable," Macala said.

"It's impossible that they have no knowledge of inmates' attempt to escape."

Prison officials have already stuffed the tunnels with debris to keep inmates from fleeing.

MMDA 'task force' stirs up urban poor

By Philip Tubeza, Leila Salaverria and Christian Esguerra

THE RUMOR that the Metro Manila Development Authority plans to hire 10,000 persons to disperse sidewalk vendors starting tomorrow has agitated urban poor groups.

About 200 militant vendors yesterday marched to Mendiola Bridge in Manila yesterday and condemned the rumored MMDA plan calling for the formation of a "Red Task Force."

The supposed plan calls for the hiring of 10,000 persons, mostly from Marikina City, hometown of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. The men will each get paid P250 a day to evict Metro Manila vendors from the sidewalks, according to Manny Dechoza of the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para sa Pagtatanggol ng Kabuhayan at Karapatan (Almakka).

But MMDA officials said they do not have a 10,000-man task force at its disposal.

"We don't have such a team, that is not true," said MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna, who was reacting to criticism from militant groups that the MMDA will deploy an "auxiliary force" to combat sidewalk vendors.

Militant groups have said the MMDA will deploy the task force when the 30-day moratorium on sidewalk clearing lapses.

Lacuna also told the INQUIRER yesterday that MMDA personnel have been regularly conducting sidewalk clearing operations, and that there is no need to deploy a special team.

Dechoza, spokesperson of Almakka, said the vendors are not content with Fernando's head, they are also calling on the President to resign for strongly supporting Fernando.

The vendors warned that the MMDA will become more violent with the deployment of its "Red Task Force" against vendors.

"If the MMDA has such plots of restraining our rights to earn a living and to live worthily, (we) appeal to our fellow street vendors to defend their lives and livelihood at all costs," he said.

Nine non-government organizations and urban poor advocates also asked for the head of Fernando for his alleged oppressive policies against the poor.

In a letter, the groups asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to fire Fernando, claiming his policies at the MMDA are in stark contrast to Malacañang's.

While the President has been conducting a series of dialogues with urban poor groups, Fernando has allegedly been treating the poor like "garbage," according to Ted Anan of the Urban Poor Associates.

MIAA to mayors: Settle boundaries then tax us

By Christian V. Esguerra

PASAY and Parañaque must first settle their boundary dispute involving the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before they attempt to collect realty taxes from airport authorities, according to Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda.

He yesterday gave this advice to Parañaque Mayor Joey Maquez and Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad who are trying to collect a combined amount of P1.5 billion from airport officials in alleged unpaid realty taxes.

"As it is, the issue is now complicated," Manda told the INQUIRER. "It will become more complicated because Pasay and Parañaque have yet to agree on their boundary."

Naia cuts across the territories of the two local governments.

Manda said two-thirds of the 600-hectare Naia property is located in Pasay while the remainder falls under Parañaque's jurisdiction.

He said that establishing boundaries is crucial in determining the amount of realty taxes which the MIAA supposedly owes Pasay and Parañaque.

Parañaque claims the airport owes the city unpaid realty taxes of about P722 million and had planned to put the airport into the auction block.

Pasay has demanded about P800 in unpaid realty taxes from airport authorities and has also threatened to auction off the property in November, along with pieces of property of the Public Estates Authority, Light Rail Transit Authority and Metro Rail Transit.

After the Court of Appeals junked MIAA's petition to block the auction of Parañaque, Marquez had revived his plan to sell Naia through public auction.

Manda and Marquez were set to have a dialogue to resolve the issue. The airport chief has also filed a petition to block the auction before the Court of Appeals.

Manda also advised Pasay to wait for the decision on the petition before he auctions off the property.

2 informers killed in QC

By Alcuin Papa

DRUG dealers in Quezon City must be feeling the heat of the anti-drug operations against them.

The Central Police District Office yesterday said unidentified men killed two narcotics police informers in a span of six hours in the city.

In a report, police identified the first man to fall as Romeo Panit, 25, of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Police said a certain Marlon shot Panit as the victim was standing in front of the Maritess Store on Cataluna Street, Barangay Holy Spirit at around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Witnesses told police that the suspect casually approached Panit, drew his .45-caliber pistol, shot the victim in the forehead and fled.

Six hours later, an unidentified man shot and killed Abulais Lau Casarigan, 32, of Barangay Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Police said Casarigan was killed while he was playing billiards with a friend Camid Tarusan Macarimbon in Barangay Sta. Monica at around 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

Police said the suspect entered the billiard hall and shot the victim four times in the back.

Sources at the Central Police District confirmed that the two men were police informers working with the Drug Enforcement Unit.

The sources said the victims provided police with information on the operations of big-time drug dealers in the city.

Quezon City policemen are now investigating the murders.

They believe that the killings were professional hits.

Find a name for the RP basketball team

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—Hey, buddy, you want to know your real name?

You sure, are a fan of Philippine basketball, so I'll tell you.

But, first of all, try and answer this:

Why does an ostrich hide its head under the sand?

Simple. 'Coz Mr. O feels terribly unhappy with his unwieldy neck.

***

We are, back to where we started.

It's soul-searching time again, that all-too weary, familiar, predictable point called DIAGNOSIS.

It's again check-up season, the unhappy ending, sunset for another forgettable chapter in Philippine sports.

And we're (again) left asking whatever went wrong?

Nothing much, really, Sir.

But listen to one who saw it all, whose palms are still wet (Sorry, Bob Considine) after seeing the Philippine national basketball team knock itself out in the 14 Asian Game here.

Our team did lose it. And I don't mean here merely that game against China.

That, had no bearing, as officials love to insist.

***

But it should actually be trying time again.

In fact, natives in this cool, bustling, booming, sweet, neat, enviable seaside town have remained amazed, they've been asking why the shiny, overdressed RP cheerleaders, generously funded by Samsung, did not hesitate to shake, rattle and roll, to stun the stadium even after China had buried our basketeers under the hardcourt.

Of course, only Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, his many bodyguards and members of his clan who have joined the former swimming star here (at people's expense), should be able to provide an answer.

***

This is a couple of mornings after that stupid, horrible, one-sided, forgettable, nameless defeat against the China team on Tuesday.

For the record, China had done it before. It had time and time again blown our national team out of the floor.

A Philippine all-pro team first got it to the chin in 1990, when the Chinese fleet-foots headed by Guong Lu Ming buried RP by 65 points in the preliminaries of the Beijing Asian Games basketball battles.

Yes, China has made it a habit to feast on Philippine national PBA selections starting with that lucridous meeting in Beijing a dozen of years back.

But Tuesday, Oct. 8, marked the first time in that lop-sided basketball history when the Philippine got so shamefully shattered that it ended up looking for its name on the floor.

No kidding. Given the minute details in that 40-minute run on the neat, well-lit wooden court, our players were not unlike grade-schoolers viciously pushed to try and take a college entrance exam.

Take, for example, Asi Taulava, who had bragged to reporters here that he would not be intimidated by China's Yao Ming, seven-foot-five.

Asi overdid himself, and could have set a record here in the process.

This borrowed man mountain received a total of five blocks—one more than the four points he had mercifully collected.

***

Taulava's performance and total output spoke for the whole Philippine team.

Just like his teammates in the RP squad, Taulava had to cram and train for this test.

That aweful result against China on Tuesday bared what had predictably been feared: Our team had been using the wrong textbooks.

No need also for a keen basketball eye to swear and conclude that our players had lost their way.

They did not only use the wrong textbooks. They had also entered the wrong classroom.

Last heard of, they were still looking for their lost names on the scroll.

By the way, this is not meant as another compliment.

But the Chinese coach, after the monster game Tuesday, explained that he had thankfully picked some learning points from the hapless, one-footed Filipino players, including Danny Ildefonso, said to earn as much as close to a million pesos a month, incentives and assorted allowances included.

Coach Wang Fei told the INQUIRER that he finally sent in his raw newcomers in the final quarter against the Philippines. For the kids to learn something.

Yes, for the young Chinese dribblers to see for themselves how not to play global ball against a Philippine team whose wild, intimidated, inexplicable game has yet to find a name here.

PE teacher accused of beating up 50 students

By Tina Santos

A PUBLIC high school teacher in Caloocan City has been accused of beating up at least 50 students.

Alejandro Camacho, a high school teacher of Macario Asistio High School in Caloocan has, been with the school for 15 years now and may lose his job and sentenced to a prison term for abusing his students.

A 14-year-old resident of Dagat-dagatan, Malabon claimed that Camacho slapped and kicked him during P.E. on Wednesday.

Upon learning that the student lodged a complaint against Camacho, the victim's other classmates, aged 12 to 14, also revealed that Camacho had also hit them on different occasions.

But the students said they were just afraid to come out in the open. They also said several others in their class had also experienced physical abuse in the hands of Camacho.

The charges were reportedly confirmed by school guidance councilor Felicisima Salamat, who said Camacho had also figured in 50 other cases of physical abuse involving students.

But according to Camacho, the allegations are all made by their school principal, Dr. Reynaldo Yamsuan. He said the principal fabricated the stories to draw attention away from his own abuses also involving students.

Camacho said Yamsuan has his own record of slapping and verbally abusing students during his term.

Camacho, along with other faculty members, was set to go to the media to reveal what they know about Yamsuan, but the principal beat them to the draw, he said.

Tiamzon, 72

PABLO TIAMZON Angeles joined our Creator on Oct. 9, 2002 at the age of 72. He dedicated his entire career life in public service. He was the Vice Mayor of San Juan for 16 years (1968-1985) and the Chairman of the Philippine Gamefowl Commission during the Aquino Administration. He last served the government as a Director of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Mr. Angeles left behind his wife, Fe Nepomuceno Angeles and nine children. His body now lies at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City.

Rockwell launches 'Acoustic Nights'

From page A30

by EJ Litton, Philip Cu-Unjieng and Ricky Dee, will provide the food and drinks.

Mute Madness, composed of vocalist Gabby Gregory and guitarist JP Enriquez, kicks off the series tomorrow and on Oct. 25. Known for its "alternative rock" music, the duo will dish out original songs and cover versions of such artists as Alanis Morissette, Sarah Maclachlan, Natalie Merchant and the Indigo Girls. This time, however, a percussionist will join them to spice up their performances.

"We're no strangers to intimate venues," says Gabby, who performs regularly with JP at Park Avenue at the Ortigas Center. "This time, however, we will try to make our performances as interactive as possible." That means asking anyone talented or gutsy enough to share his or her music onstage.

Their relationship doesn't extend beyond the stage, but the two have been good friends since their college days at the University of Asia and the Pacific, where they joined the school's music organization called Coda.

How they were able to arrive at such a name is a story in itself. While they were in the thick of doing their thesis, music became a logical escape from the pressures of schoolwork and family life. Thus, they would "mute the madness" around them by listening to their favorite artists if only for an hour or two.

JP is thrilled at the thought of performing at the Rockwell. "It's our biggest gig to date," he says. "It's harder to perform in front of a non-paying crowd. In the first place, they didn't come and pay good money to see us perform. They can leave anytime they want. Sustaining their interest can be quite a challenge."

Manas, however, believes in the artists' crowd-drawing power. Aside from their ability to cater to Rockwell denizens, they're highly versatile and attuned to the demands of their audience.

"These acts are totally different from the usual show bands," he says. "They provide a more intimate brand of entertainment."

Santos, for instance, is more at home dishing out alternative music by such artists as John Mayer and Shawn Colvin. With the help of his trusty guitar, he has no problem shifting to James Taylor songs if the need arises. He's slated to perform Nov. 7 and 14.

"I have more or less 300 songs [memorized] in my head," says the lanky singer. "I love underground stuff, but I'm also comfortable singing radio-friendly music as long as the melody appeals to me."

Aside from hosting "Late Night Guitar," a radio show aired every Wednesday on Wave 89.1, Santos plays regularly at Discovery Suites in a show is open for members only. He does a regular Tuesday series at Hard Rock Café and is also slated to perform at Dish.

Santos, who's painfully shy in person, is said to be a livewire onstage. His transformation, he says, is instant the minute he sits in front of the microphone and segues into a song.

"I'm like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," he says. "I'm shy in person, but I love to share myself with others through my music."

Tomorrow night, habitués of the posh and brightly lit Power Plant will experience a similar transformation as the mall dims the lights and sets the stage for an evening of soothing sounds.

Star Awards for TV

ALL roads lead to the UP Theater tomorrow night, Oct. 12, when the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC) stages the 16th Star Awards for TV, with 44 awards at stake, including the highly coveted award for best station.

The ceremonies will be aired live on RPN 9, 9 p.m., produced by Airtime Marketing and directed by Al Quinn.

Hosting the glittering rites which will gather the best of the best in the local TV industry are Ai Ai de las Alas, Gretchen Barretto, Pops Fernandez, Charlene Gonzales and Regine Velasquez with Boy Abunda, Dingdong Dantes, Piolo Pascual, Bong Revilla Jr. and Phillip Salvador.

Megastar Sharon Cuneta is trivia host.

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DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING

Starring: Alex D. Linz, Robert Carradine, Brooke Anne Smith; Directed by: Tim Hill

Max Keeble is a seventh grader who is bullied by everyone in school. When he finds out he's moving to a new city, he turns the table on all the people who have ever picked on him, only to find out he's not moving after all.

Award: Best Supporting Actress (Brooke Anne Smith) - Young Artist Awards, U.S.A.

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOKIA INQUIRER

Disney's MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Laugh, fall in love!

NOW SHOWING

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

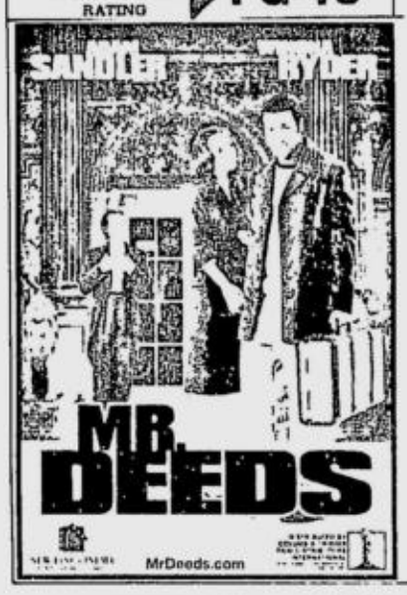
When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

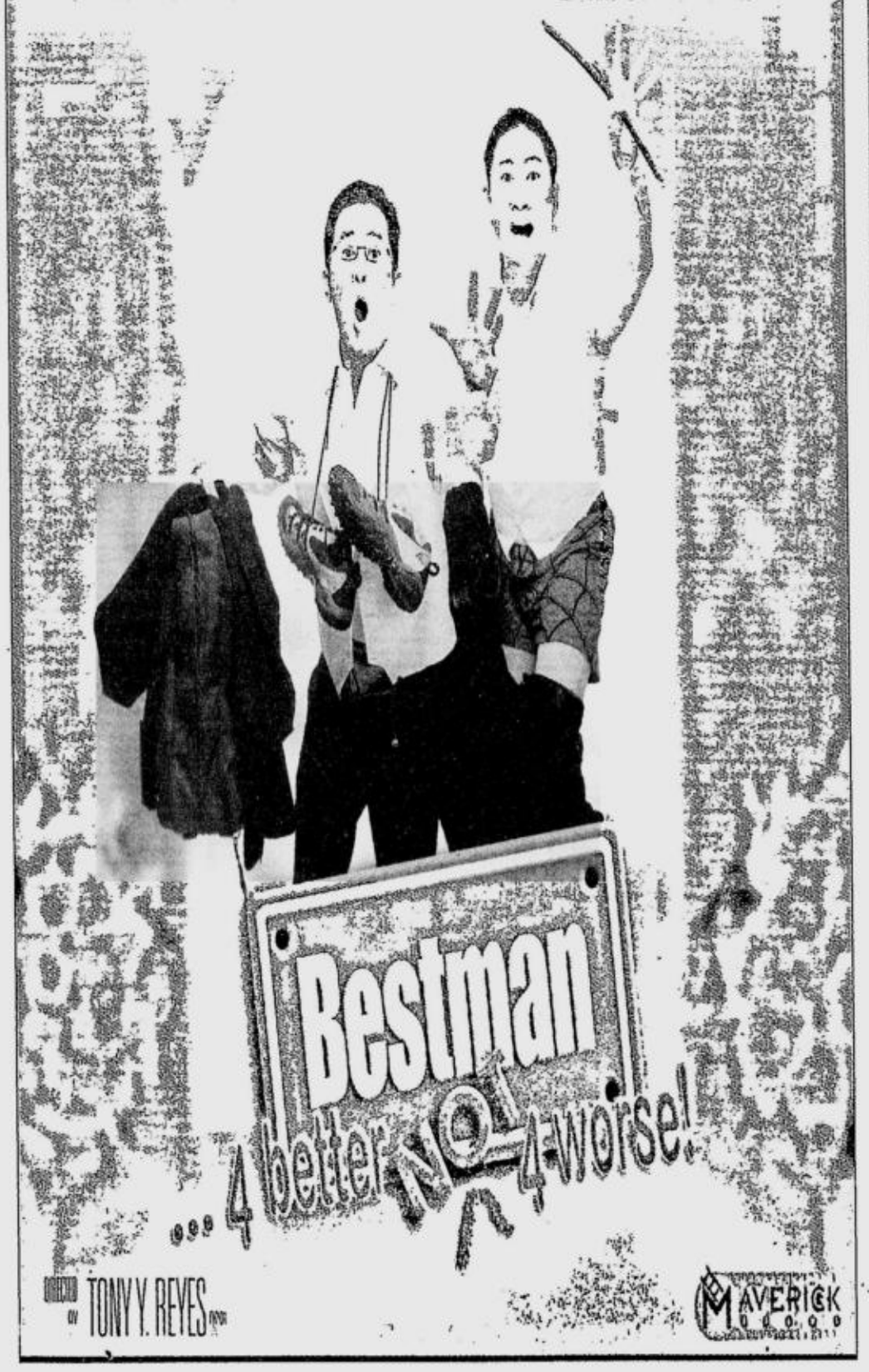


NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE!

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | All Ages Admitted

OGIE ALCASID & MICHAEL V.

MICHELLE BAYLE NIKKI VALDEZ ANDREA DEL ROSARIO



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NOW SHOWING

at the all-digital-sound

AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

WATCH THE TUXEDO AT AYALA CINEMAS
AND JOIN THE RAFFLE PROMO FOR A CHANCE TO WIN:
GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM BUSTAN'S ESSENCES
CONCERT FOR 2 IN ONSTAGE, GREENBELT 1
DINNER FOR 2 IN TGIFRIDAYS
MOVIE FOR 2 IN AYALA CINEMAS
PROMO PERIOD IS FROM OCT. 2 - 15, 2002

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) "O"
2 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 GOLD (DTS) TUXEDO
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FRAILTY
6 GOLD (SDDS) BLOOD WORK
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
8 PROSTI
9 BESTMAN
10 TOUCH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4416 36

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③

(Pasay) tel 833 3290 / 833 3274 TEL. 551 63 87

1 BESTMAN
2 LOLLIPOP
3 HUBAD NA MULTO

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 BESTMAN
2 TOUCH
3 PROSTI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TUXEDO
5 HUBAD NA MULTO

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1 PROSTI
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BESTMAN
4 TUXEDO
5 LOLLIPOP
6 BLOOD WORK
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA

LOCATED IN THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13
"BLOODWORK"
OCTOBER 9, SCREENING TIME : 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 PM.
MR. DEEDS
OCT. 10 TO 11, SCREENING TIME : 6:00, 8:30 PM
OCT. 12 TO 13, SCREENING TIME : 3:00, 6:00, 8:00 PM.

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 ROAD TO PERDITION

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC

tel 930.9515

1 RESERVE
2 BESTMAN
3 HUBAD NA MULTO

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BESTMAN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 O
6 FRAILTY
7 (DTS) BLOOD WORK
8 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
9 (DOLBY) TOUCH

Gotesco Caloocan tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 LOLLIPOP
4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
5 MR. DEEDS
6 (DOLBY) TOUCH
7 (DTS) HUBAD NA MULTO
8 BESTMAN
9 TUXEDO

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0082

4 LOLLIPOP
5 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
6 (DTS) BESTMAN
7 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
8 PROSTI

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1 BESTMAN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
4 PROSTI
5 (SDDS) TUXEDO

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BESTMAN

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 BESTMAN

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet: PROSTI, HUBAD NA MULTO, LOLLIPOP

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 BESTMAN
2 TOUCH
3 "O"

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 LOLLIPOP

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 LOLLIPOP
2 BESTMAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7 tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TOUCH
4 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
5 (DTS) TUXEDO
6 BLOOD WORK
7 O

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1 TOUCH
2 BESTMAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 BESTMAN
2 MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1 PROSTI
2 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 BESTMAN
2 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1 K-19 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO
3 SPY KIDS
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO
3 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
4 (DTS) ROAD TO PERDITION

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY EX) TUXEDO
2 (DTS) PROSTI
3 ENOUGH

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BESTMAN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 LOLLIPOP
4 VOODOO

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
5 PROSTI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 MR. DEEDS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1 TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 MR. DEEDS

Mega Center Mall

(044) 463-3283 (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 (DTS) ENOUGH
4 (DOLBY) ROAD TO PERDITION

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DOLBY) KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 PROSTI
2 BESTMAN
3 REIGN OF FIRE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BESTMAN
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

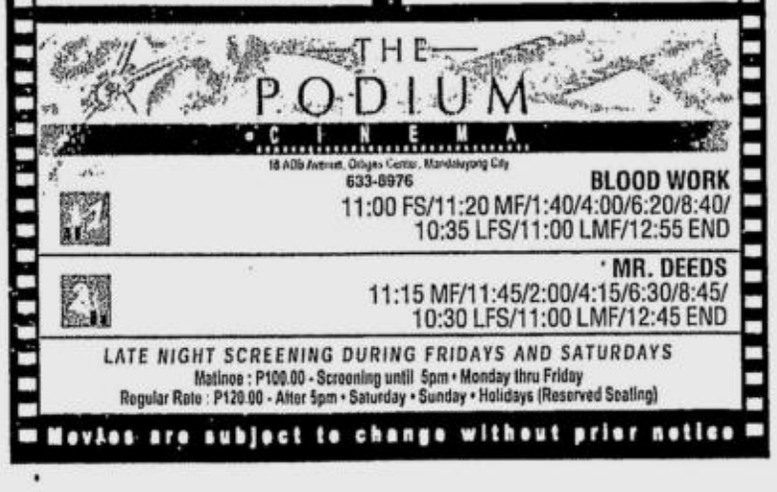
Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



Festival Supermall
Level 4
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1 SPY KIDS 2
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 THE TOUCH
4 BLOOD WORK
5 THE TUXEDO
6 BESTMAN
7 LOLLIPOP
8 MR. DEEDS

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522-7161416

1 BESTMAN
2 O
3 MR. DEEDS
4 LOLLIPOP
5 THE TUXEDO
6 FRAILTY
7 THE TOUCH
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 BLOOD WORK
10 PROSTI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1 O
2 BLOOD WORK
3 PROSTI
4 THE TOUCH
5 MR. DEEDS
6 BESTMAN
7 THE TUXEDO
8 FRAILTY
9 BIRTHDAY GIRL
10 HUBAD NA MULTO
11 SPY KIDS 2
12 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1 FRAILTY
2 THE TUXEDO
3 O
4 MR. DEEDS
5 THE TOUCH
6 THE TUXEDO
7 LOLLIPOP
8 BLOODWORK
9 BESTMAN
10 ENOUGH
11 BIRTHDAY GIRL
12 PROSTI

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1 THE TUXEDO
2 BLOOD WORK
3 THE TOUCH
4 MR. DEEDS
5 FRAILTY
6 O
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 BESTMAN
10 THE TUXEDO
11 PROSTI
12 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1 PROSTI
2 FRAILTY
3 LOLLIPOP
4 BESTMAN
5 MR. DEEDS
6 THE TOUCH
7 BLOOD WORK
8 THE TUXEDO

SM SOUTHMALL 8066660

1 FRAILTY
2 BLOOD WORK
3 THE TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 HUBAD NA MULTO
6 PROSTI
7 BESTMAN
8 THE TOUCH
9 O
10 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1 THE TUXEDO
2 ENOUGH
3 SPIDER
4 SIMONE
5 REVELATION
6 PROSTI
7 BESTMAN
8 THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1 REVELATION
2 CLOSED
3 K-19
4 BESTMAN
5 ENOUGH
6 THE TUXEDO
7 CLOSED
8 SIMONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1 THE TUXEDO
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 PROSTI
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 BESTMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975

1 MR. DEEDS
2 THE TUXEDO
3 BESTMAN
4 THE TOUCH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1 THE TOUCH
2 BESTMAN
3 THE TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS

SM CITY DAVAO 2976958

1 REVELATION
2 SIMONE
3 BESTMAN
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 THE TUXEDO
6 ENOUGH

SM BICUTAN

1 SOON TO OPEN!
2 4 NEW
3 STATE-OF-THE-ART
4 VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1 SOON TO OPEN!
2 4 NEW
3 STATE-OF-THE-ART
4 VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

BLOOD WORK
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

MR. DEEDS
11:15 MF/11:45/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX MR. DEEDS (10:10 MF, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10 LMF, 9:55 END)
2 MR. DEEDS
3 BESTMAN
4 FRAILTY
5 TUXEDO
6 "O"
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 THE TOUCH
9 BLOOD WORK
10 ENOUGH

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 1 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-7809-12

1 RESERVED
2 BLOOD WORK
3 FRAILTY
4 "O"
5 BESTMAN
6 MR. DEEDS
7 TUXEDO

Metro East - Marcos Hwy 682-8193 / 8280

1 BLOOD WORK
2 TUXEDO
3 "O"
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 THE TOUCH
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 MR. DEEDS
8 PROSTI

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1 BLOOD WORK
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 "O"
5 THE TOUCH
6 FRAILTY
7 MR. DEEDS
8 BESTMAN

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1 TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 BLOOD WORK
4 MR. DEEDS
5 "O"
6 THE TOUCH

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1 TUXEDO
2 ORAGNE COUNTY
3 ENOUGH
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 VOO DOO
6 TUKAAN

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1 TUXEDO
2 ENOUGH
3 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
4 REVELATIONS
5 SIMONE
6 BESTMAN

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875-1927 / 961-5318 / 5270

1 VOO DOO
2 HIGH RISK
3 MR. DEEDS
4 BESTMAN
5 TUXEDO
6 MR. DEEDS

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Metro East PASIG :	MEP
Novaliches :	NOVA
Imus :	IMUS
Starmills :	STAR
Iloilo :	ILO
Bacolod :	BAC

Send to : 2333 Globe / 225 Smart

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Metro police hold benefit concert tonight

SHOWS

POLICEMEN from the National Capital Regional Office (NCRPO) will hold a free concert tonight at the Music Museum, to bring Metro cops closer to the community.

In "God Bless Our Cops" the concert, policemen will sing religious songs and other original compositions depicting the lives of cops.

NCRPO chief deputy director General Reynaldo Velasco said the main goal of the concert is to bridge the gap between the police and the community.

Men in uniform, with their wives and children, will perform onstage, together with known artists such as tenor Nolyn Cabahug and violinist John Lesaca.

The "God Bless Our Cops carrier song will be performed by Cabahug.

Lesaca will render three musical pieces: "The Lord's Prayer," two original compositions, "Payapang Daigdig" and "Bakit."

"Bayani Ka sa Puso Namin" will be rendered by the cops' children.

The concert will start at 7 p.m.

'Concert and Graces'

VINA Morales headlines "Concert and Graces from the Heart," a special show for Dabaweños, 7:30 tonight at Santa Theresa de Avila Parish in Malalag, Davao del Sur.

Vina will render love ballads and dance tunes she personally picked to perform.

To date, the EMI Music artist has starred in blockbuster movies with some of the country's top leading men, recorded albums. headlined sold-out concerts in and out of the country and hosted top-rating TV shows.

Vina's sister, Shaina Magdayao and the VM Band, will join her in the show.

Musical director is Butch Miraflor.

"Concert and Graces from the Heart" is a joint effort of the Malalag Parish Council Opal Productions and the Local Government Unit of Malalag, Davao del Sur.

MORALES. Performs in Davao tonight.

'I'm very happy with my personal life'—Aga

From page A30

once played siblings on the big screen in "May Minamahal," where Aga starred with **Aiko Melendez**.

When Claudine was 13, she fell in love with Aga in the telemovie, "Kailan Kita Mamahalin," directed by **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**.

"Since I was 16, I've been asking telling Tita Ethel (Ramos) that I wanted to do a movie with Aga, but she kept on telling me, 'Bata ka pa'," Claudine says.

"This movie is a dream come true for me and a big boost to my self-esteem."

Starring with Aga and Claudine in the film are **Dante Rivero, Johnny Delgado, Liza Lorena, Gardo Versoza, Cholo Escaño** and **Chris Villanueva**.

"Kailangan Kita" boasts of a beautiful theme written by the prolific **Ogie Alcasid** and recorded by **Gary Valenciano**.

Not true

AGA refutes the talk that he and Charlene were recently "kidnapped."

"Charlene said there were people who called in the house when word got around about the 'kidnapping'," Aga says. "Wow, that's big time. *Sino naman ang tutubos sa amin*. I don't have money!"

Concert productions

RUFFA Gutierrez is again active at the helm of her family-owned production outfit, Royal Era Entertainment.

In the past, the company even produced films for Ruffa, but since the actress-beauty queen decided to work abroad and be based in Los Angeles, Royal Era Entertainment limited itself to coming up with occasional productions of live concerts.

Now that Ruffa is back in local show biz for good, she says she will also be more involved in her family's outfit.

This month, Ruffa will produce two live concerts for Royal Era Entertainment. Both are dinner-concerts to be held at the new Country Waffles in Sgt. Esguerra corner West Triangle in Quezon City.

On Oct. 25, "A Very Wholesome Show" topbills the inimitable **Rico J. Puno**, with **Rosanna Roces** as the special guest.

On Oct. 26, the sexy **Ara Mina** is featured in a "One Night Stand" with '70s singing heartthrob **Hajji Alejandro**.

Like previous Royal Era Entertainment concert productions, Ruffa will also host the two upcoming shows. So her presence is an added bonus to ticket buyers who will shell out P2,500 (inclusive of dinner).

GUTIERREZ

Ruffa's mom, **Annabelle Rama**, is also tirelessly promoting both shows, which are being mounted as a benefit for the Asilo Medalla Milagrosa of Cebu, an orphanage close to Tita Annabelle's heart.

Both shows are being supported by MMG International Trading Corporation and Play and Display.

For reservations, call Royal Era Entertainment at 727-2534/36 or Country Waffles at 925-3980/421-3331.

Celebrities join free seminar for women

COSMOPOLITAN Magazine and One Woman Show Inc. hold a one-day free seminar for women, "Cosmo Goes to Work With Women amd the City," Oct. 19 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza in Makati, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ladies who are 18-35 years old are invited to attend this inspiring and enriching seminar that aims to improver and empower women.

The seminar includes a make-over session, a Pilates and basic self-defense demonstration, poise and projection class, tips on how to develop inner wellness plus a fashion presentation, featuring the latest outfits by Dockers.

Celebrities who are experts in various fields have been tapped to share their experiences and knowledge.

Former beauty queen and TV personality Miriam Quiambao will talk about "Inner Wellness," while Taekwondo champion Monsour del Rosario with instructor Louie Domingo will teach basic self-defense techniques.

Deadline for submission is Oct. 17. The first 500 entries will be accommodated and attendees will be notified by phone or e-mail.

QUIAMBAO

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SPORT / WALK TO REMEMBER
ODEON	THE TOUCH
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SCOOBY DOO / STUART LITTLE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LILLIPOP
REMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO
REMAR-2	LILLIPOP
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BESTMAN
B	HUBAD NA MULTO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
CINEMA-2	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PROSTI
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOUCH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-6	BESTMAN
CINEMA-7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CINEMA-8	HUBAD NA MULTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	FRAILITY
CINEMA-14	0
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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GREENHILLS
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DOLBY DIGITAL
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CINEMA 1 — THE TUXEDO 11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00 P13
CINEMA 2 — MR. DEEDS 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10 P13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT 12, 2002 MUSIC SA MUSEUM 8:00 PM
OCT 19, 2002 VIVA GREATEST HITS SERIES 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED — Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN OF EVIL YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
ANTHONY HOPKINS EDWARD NORTON RALPH FIENNES HARVEY KEITEL EMILY WATSON MARY-LOUISE PARKER DUSTIN HOFFMAN
RED DRAGON
THE FIRST AND MOST TERRIFYING CHAPTER IN THE HANNIBAL LECTER TRILOGY
OPENS OCTOBER 23

NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 — Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Some violent scene may be traumatic to children.
"TWO THUMBS UP!" – EBERT & ROEPER
"'Blood Work' has all the tension of one of the earlier Clint Eastwood thrillers." – Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER
"Eastwood still has what it takes. A really good performance." – Leonard Maltin, HOT TICKET
CLINT EASTWOOD
BLOOD WORK
HE'S A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM CATCHING THE KILLER
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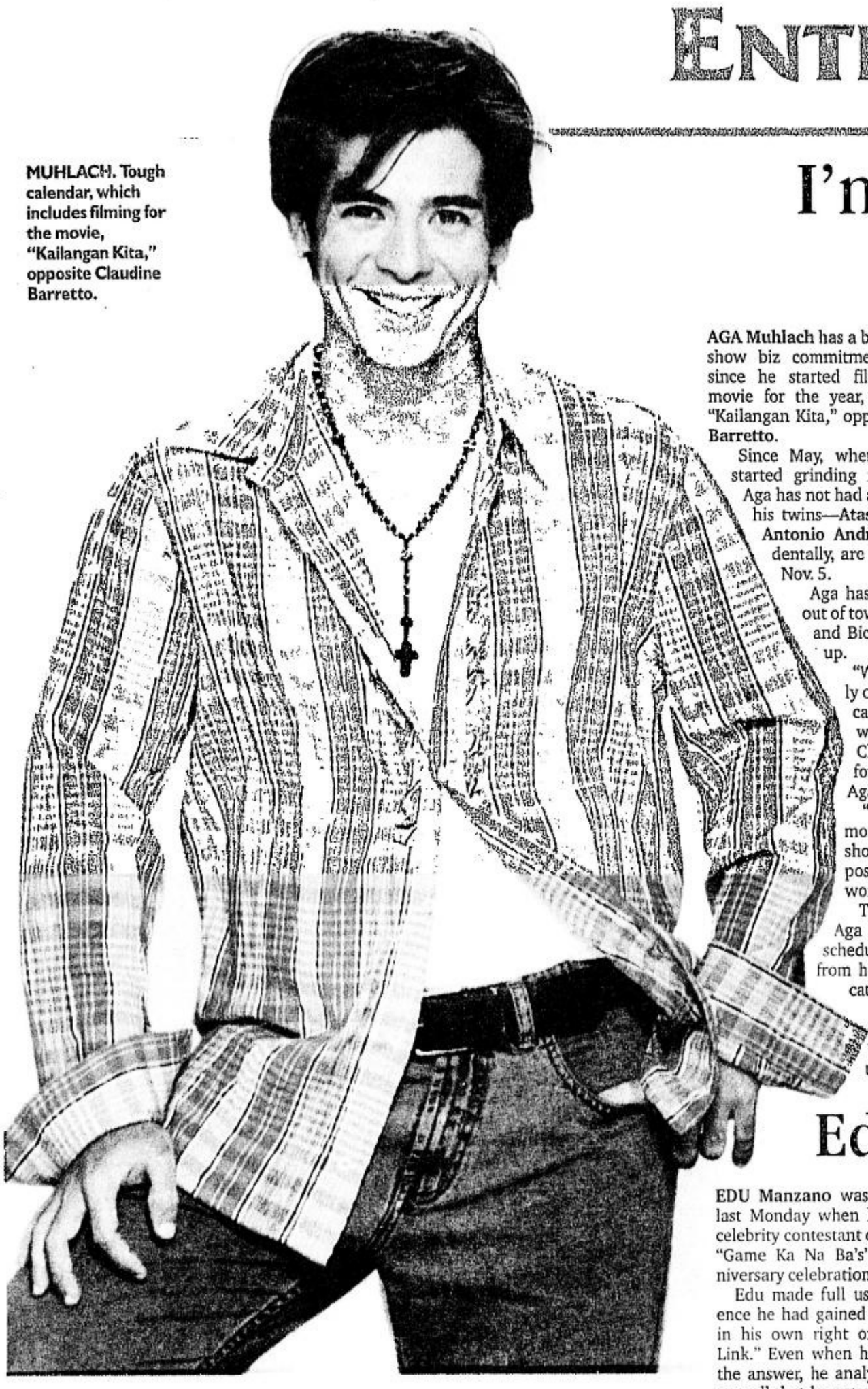
Editor Louie C. Camino



MUHLACH. Tough calendar, which includes filming for the movie, "Kailangan Kita," opposite Claudine Barretto.

I'm very happy with my personal life—Aga

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AGA Muhlach has a busy calendar of show biz commitments, especially since he started filming his first movie for the year, Star Cinema's "Kailangan Kita," opposite **Claudine Barretto.**

Since May, when the cameras started grinding for the movie, Aga has not had a weekend with his twins—**Atasha Aaron** and **Antonio Andres**—who, incidentally, are turning one on Nov. 5.

Aga has been shooting out of town in Pampanga and Bicol, with no let-up.

"We can shoot only on weekends because three days within the week, Claudine tapes for her TV soap," Aga offers.

"We have two more weekends to shoot before we do post-production work."

This week alone, Aga has a frenzied schedule. He arrived from his Pampanga location shoot last Monday, shot a TV commercial on Tuesday, taped for his ABS-CBN sitcom, "Okay, Fine" on Wednesday and left for another weekend shoot in Bicol last yesterday.

He gets back on Monday next week, then starts dubbing for the movie the next day.

"Before, I would get angry if the shooting was packed up," Aga shares. "But now, I get thrilled when they postpone the shoot because I know I can spend the day with my family. I only get to see my kids in the morning."

He laments that he cannot even bring his kids to the location shoot. "We do not have a child-friendly set," he says. "In Pampanga, we don't even have accommodations. There was a time when a set-up in a field where we would shoot took eight hours. Madugo talaga ang shooting namin."

While the twins are still too young to notice his absence at home, Aga is thankful that his wife, **Charlene Gonzales**, understands his present workload.

"I asked her to please just understand me because it's not always like this *naman*," Aga says. "My schedule may be tough and demanding, but my personal life is very happy. I'm very happy."

"Kailangan Kita," with **Rory Quintos** at the helm, boasts a screenplay by the winning duo of **Shaira Mella Salvador** and **Raymond Lee.** Love and passion mix with the joys of cooking, since Aga plays a celebrity chef who comes home from New York to marry the sister of Claudine, herself an accomplished cook. Aga's fiancee is played by model **Chrissy Duran.**

There are scenes in "Kailangan Kita" inspired by Hollywood movies like **Alfonso Arau**'s "A Walk in the Clouds" (with **Keanu Reeves** and **Aitana Sanchez-Gijon**) and "Like Water for Chocolate" or **Joan Chen**'s "Autumn in New York" (with **Richard Gere** and **Winona Ryder**).

"Kailangan Kita" marks the third time that Aga is working with Rory. She directed him in his movie with **Dayanara Torres**, "Basta't Kasama Kita" and the suspense-thriller, "Sa Aking mga Kamay," where he shared stellar billing with **Christopher de Leon.**

Rory, meanwhile, directed Claudine in "Mangarap Ka" and "Anak."

Although "Kailangan Kita" marks their first team-up, Aga and Claudine are comfortable working together.

They co-starred in the now-defunct sitcom, "Oki Doki Doc," and

AGA/ A29

Edu racks up perfect score

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EDU Manzano was in his element last Monday when he was the first celebrity contestant on **Kris Aquino**'s "Game Ka Na Ba's" week-long anniversary celebration on Channel 2.

Edu made full use of the experience he had gained as a quizmaster in his own right on "The Weakest Link." Even when he wasn't sure of the answer, he analyzed the choices so well that he got a perfect score as he racked up P 300,000 worth of prizes for three favorite charities, as well as a motorcab showcasw for his driver of 18 years.

Manzano's driver also came across well, prompting Kris to observe that he had imbibed some of Edu's flair and wit through the years. For his part, Edu joked that his driver was so loyal that he has stayed on the job even if Edu joked he "hasn't been paid" for the past three years.

It's Edu's combination of authority and sly humor that makes him an outstanding TV host and quizmaster. We hope that he's given another quiz show soon. And, of course, a new talk show to host. Many viewers still remember how well Edu did as a talk-show host some years ago, and want to see him regularly on the TV screen, soonest.

P.S.: We arrived home late on Tuesday night so we didn't get to watch "GKNB", but we were told that Edu had gone on to win a cool million bucks for his favorite charities—and still with a perfect score! All that "practice" he had while hosting "The Weakest Link" sure worked in his favor—bigtime. What a guy from near perfect quizmaster to perfect quizshow contestant—that's an achievement truly worth celebrating!

Hotlegs 'In the Flash'

THE popular Hotlegs dance ensemble is mounting a concert, titled "In the Flash" at Onstage on Nov. 5 and 7 to mark its 21st anniversary. A total of 31 Hotlegs dancers will perform latin numbers, jazz, classics, pop and contemporary dances.

Choreographers are **Charles Thompson, Georcelle Dapzt, Nancy Crowe** and **Christine Blando.** Guest choreographer is **Jaime de Prado.** Also performing are **Ralion Alonso** and the Maneuvers.

Spotlight on Emma Watson

DANIEL Radcliffe has gotten a lot of media mileage for playing the title role in the Harry Potter film series, but what about the actress who plays his young female friend, Hermione Granger? It's time to focus the spotlight on 12-year-old **Emma Watson,** whose portrayal of the bookish and kind-hearted Hermione has charmed viewers everywhere.

On the scene, Emma comes across as a cool, polished and thoroughly professional performer, but it turns out that "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was her first film. She honed her talent only in school production.

When she was tapped to play Hermione, Emma had a hard time because she's not at all like her screen character. "I'm not obsessed with books, I'm not obsessed with school and homework, and I'm not obsessed with not getting into trouble," she firmly declares.

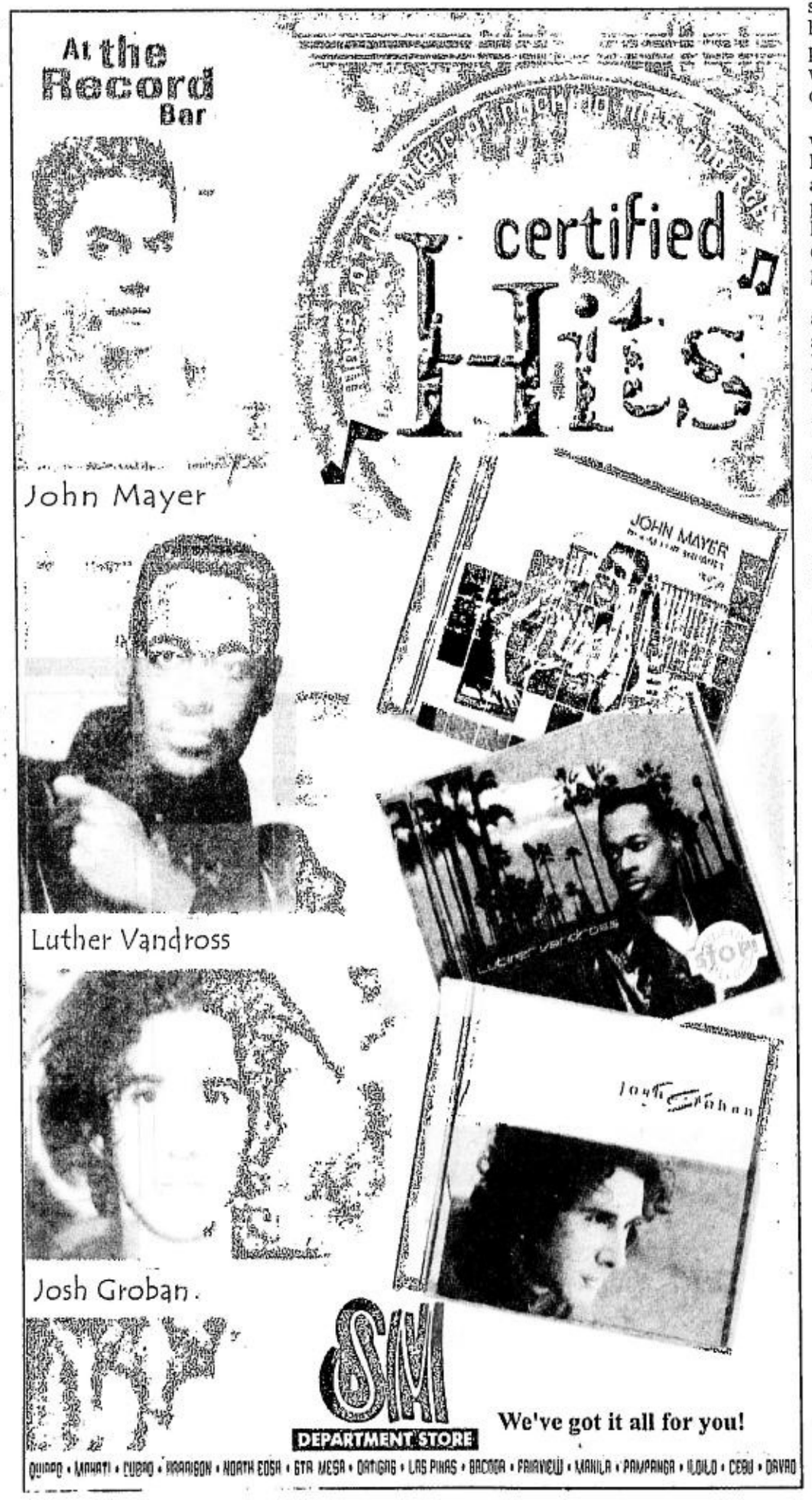
She also had to say some pretty complicated lines that gave her a lot of trouble. Try this one on for size: "Mandrake or mangora is used to return those who have been petrified to their original state. It's also quite dangerous, and the mandrake's call is quite fatal to anyone who hears it." What a mouthful!

And yet, Emma was able to come up with a thoroughly winning performance as Hermione. What a confident and competent young actress.

How does she fare in her second film, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets?" "It was easier. Emma has become a bit more laid-back and she's not so worried about getting into trouble so much.

"I was also given more unusual things to do—like I become a cat in one scene! I loved that, because I have two cats at home.

"My character also gets a crush on her teacher. Now, I really had a hard time with that, because the teacher was played as such an irritating character. But Hermione is supposed to be so lovey-dovey about him that she's oblivious to his flaws, so that's the way I had to play it. It was tough!"



Rockwell launches 'Acoustic Nights'

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE Power Plant will undergo a radical transformation as darkness sets in tomorrow night. In its bid to attract the young crowd, Rockwell's upscale mall will launch a series of shows featuring such artists as Mute Madness and Paolo Santos. Billed as "Acoustic Nights @ Club Rock," performances are slated on Oct. 12 and 25 and Nov. 7 and 14 at the Power Plant's indoor fountain area or South Court.

"It marks Power Plant's transition from being Rockwell by day to Club Rock by night," says Joma Manas, Rockwell Land's special events officer. "We want to package the mall as an evening destination where people can unwind as soon as the last shop closes." The series of free shows start 9 p.m.

Far from a concert hall, Rockwell hopes to recreate an intimate venue with chairs, throw pillows and mats strewn all over the area. In lieu of talkative DJs and pulsating rave music, the public will be treated to soothing lounge entertainment. Dish, the resto-music lounge owned

ROCKWELL/ A27

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B1

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Stocks plunge in new bout of global gloom

INDICATORS

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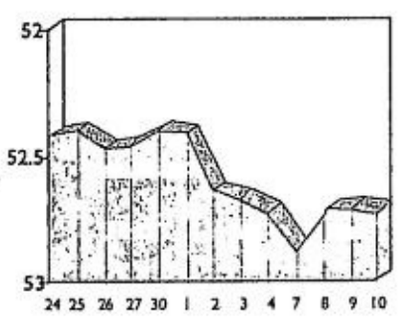


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.725 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2002

¥ 123.53 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2002

GOLD: $319.00-319.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 10, 2002

JAPANESE and South Korean shares led a slide in Asian markets yesterday after Wall Street slumped to a five-year low on growing worries over corporate profits and the health of financial institutions.

The local bourse was not spared, its main index sinking to a new 10-month low with sentiment depressed by steep falls in major markets, particularly in the United States—the country's top trading partner.

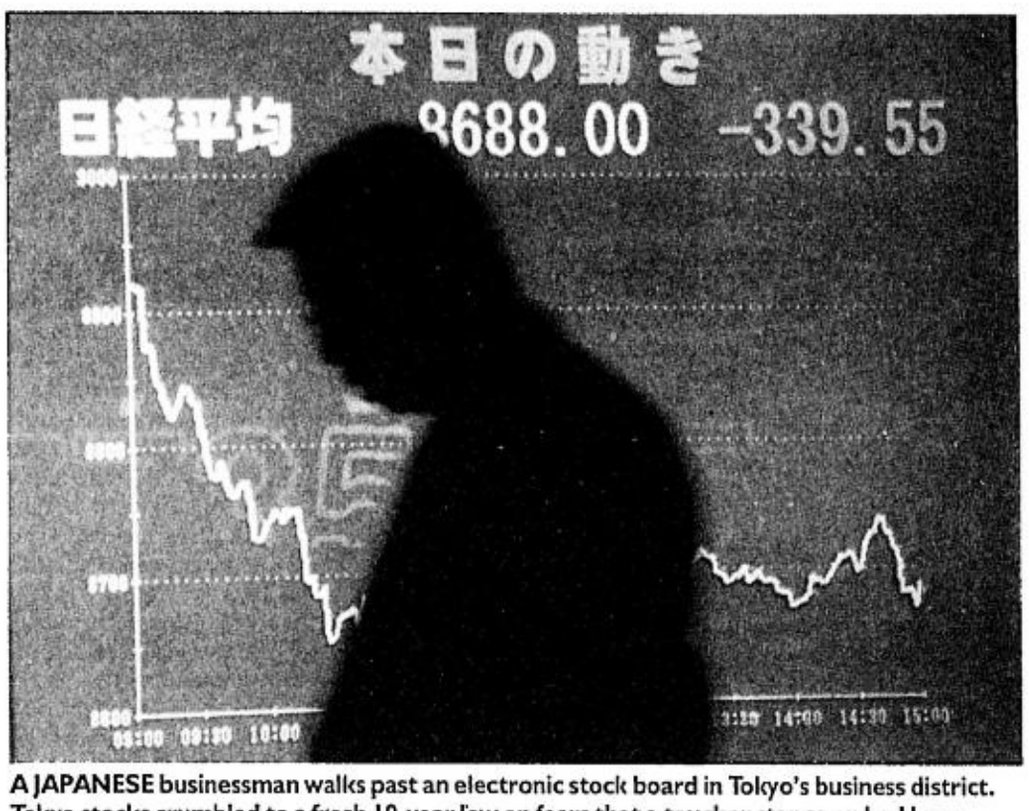
Most foreign houses in Manila were in a net selling position, traders said, indicating that most foreign investors would rather cash out of the market until uncertainties, such as the possible war in Iraq, clear up.

"It's a bloodbath. Everything's red," said Jo Ann Eala, fund manager at Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Trust.

"Investors are moving away from volatile markets, everybody is trying to secure themselves from a worst case scenario—a full blown war in Iraq."

The Philippine stock index lost 17.98 points or 1.66 percent to end at 1,063.29 points, the lowest closing level since Nov. 21 last year. The market is now down 8.97 percent so far this year but was still outperform-

STOCKS/ B2



A JAPANESE businessman walks past an electronic stock board in Tokyo's business district. Tokyo stocks crumbled to a fresh 19-year low on fears that a tougher stance on bad loans would trigger a wave of corporate failures. REUTERS

Borrowers stay away from dollar loans

AS MORE borrowers stayed away from dollars given the peso's general weakness, lending from the foreign currency deposit units of banks fell to a five-year low of $5.15 billion as of the second quarter.

Loans from the FCDUs have contracted by as much as 57 percent over the last five years even as deposits remained steady at $12.75 billion as of end-June.

Banks' FCDUs, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, represent largely the deposits and savings of the country's 5 million overseas workers.

Credit from banks' FCDUs declined by 15.38 percent or $936 million from $6.086 billion during the same period last year and down by 2.52 percent or $133 million from $5.283 billion in the previous quarter.

The top FCDU lenders were Philippine National Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Citibank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

The BSP explained in a statement that FCDU loans have been steadily declining over the last five years as local borrowers shifted away from dollar loans in favor of cheaper peso borrowings to minimize risks and take advantage of declining local interest rates.

BORROWERS/ B2

RP-focused funds stand out

HONG KONG—Mutual funds investing in the Philippines were Asia's best performers in September, the only geographical sector in the region to eke out marginal positive returns for investors during the month, latest data show.

Philippine-themed mutual funds delivered just 0.07 percent month-on-month return in September, according to data on 15 geographic sectors from fund tracking firm Lipper, a Reuters company.

But that was far better than the average 6.1 percent month-on-month loss recorded by funds in the 14 regional sectors tracked, ranging from a 9.2 percent decline on average for funds focused on the markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and a 2.09 percent fall for funds investing in India.

Reuters

Local bourse cancels afternoon trading sesssion

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to return to half-day trading starting Oct. 15 due to dwindling market volumes brought by the gloomy stock market conditions across the globe.

"I decided to suspend the afternoon trading because I've been looking at incomes and the cost and the international situation," PSE president Ernest Leung yesterday said in an interview.

"The international outlook on the global markets is not that good and people have to reduce costs," Leung said, noting that having an extended trading in the afternoon was weighing down on the operations of market participants.

Starting Tuesday next week, trading would start at 9 a.m. and close at 12:10 p.m., the PSE announced in a circular to brokers yesterday.

But Leung said the PSE was continuing to study ways on how to reduce the operating costs of the battered brokerage industry, particularly through offsite trading or that which does not require physical presence at the trading floor.

The PSE is pilot-testing this month an offsite trading system, which Leung explained could be used to reduce the operating costs of brokers, whether in the morning or in an afternoon trade.

The local bourse used to trade on a half-day basis, from 9:30 a.m. till noon but decided to adopt an additional 1-2:30 p.m. session starting last February to take advantage of the resurgence of investor confidence early this year.

The surge in stock market volumes, however, fizzled out in the last few months, thus further depressing the incomes of stock brokerage firms, especially the foreign-owned which operate on higher overhead costs.

The uncertainties brought by the possible preemptive strike against Iraq by the United States have likewise dampened investor interest in equities across the globe as the uptick in crude oil prices was seen to affect corporate earnings.

Leung said the return to half-day trading would no longer need approval from the PSE board and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In a separate interview, PSE director Robert Coyiuto said the PSE management should have decided to implement the return to half-day trading two months ago when a survey among member-brokers indicated preference for such schedule.

"They reacted too late. They should be responsible for the additional expenses incurred by the PSE because they did not listen to the mandate of the membership," Coyiuto said.

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$236.9-M SUPPLIER'S CREDIT

Creditor declares Digitel in default

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEC Corp. of Japan has declared the Gokongweis' telecommunications unit Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. in default of a total of $236.9 million worth of supplier's credit, which was last restructured in 1999.

Digitel, however, assured that it would "pursue all legal options" to resolve the matter, even as it lashed back at NEC for alleged violations of certain provisions of the controversial supply contract, according to a disclosure yesterday sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange by Digitel assistant corporate secretary William Pamintuan.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that NEC, which was among the Japanese firms earlier lobbying against the Gokongweis' buy-in into Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., was considering to officially declare the telecom firm in default.

For its part, Digitel explained to the PSE that it was contesting the default declaration as NEC allegedly fell short of certain obligations, such as:

- delay in the delivery of contracted subscriber lines;
- intermittent and unreliable performance of the Wireless Local Loop system;
- failure to post the performance bond, and
- failure to turn over certain permits, clearances and other government requirements.

Clifford Chance LLP, which represents NEC, sent the notice of default to Digitel in a letter dated Oct. 3 and demanded payment within five days, the disclosure said.

"The notice of default was also issued after the parties failed to come to an agreement to resolve their respective issues in relation to the said supply contract," Pamintuan said.

He admitted that Digitel had stopped the payment of the last three installment payment that fell due for both principal and interest amounting to $51.92 million covering the period October 2001 to October 2002 "precisely because of NEC's violation of the supply contract which remained unremedied to this date."

As a consequence of said notice of default, NEC had accelerated the payment date of the total contract value and demanded the payment of the total principal amount of $236.9 million together with accrued interest of $14.58 million and overdue interest of $1.95 million, the disclosure added.

The supplier credit was originally extended by NEC in 1995 for a project known as NX2. Documents indicated that the original amount was $259.39 million, which had a back-up guarantee of up to 60 percent from three other Japanese trading companies: Itochu, Sumitomo Corp., and Kanematsu. The loan carried a 57-percent guarantee from JG Summit Holdings Corp.

In 1999, NEC agreed to reschedule principal payments so amortization would start in April 2001 on condition that no further rescheduling would be accepted. It said it was upset that Digitel again tried to seek concessions starting in September last year. Digitel proposed a new rescheduling with an additional three-year grace period and a revised installment payment schedule that would be completed in 2010, the documents showed.

Stocks plunge ...

From page B1

ing bigger Asian markets like Hong Kong and Singapore.

Tokyo stocks were about 1.5 percent lower yesterday, clambering back from a 4-percent drop to a fresh 19-year low, as banks led a retreat on anxiety over Japan's policy for tackling bad loans and bankruptcies in the world's second largest economy.

Seoul shares posted losses of over 4 percent, rattled by falls in Japan and on Wall Street.

Pessimism over corporate performance and growing fears about the health of financial institutions have sparked the deepest bear market in more than 60 years on Wall Street, sending investors scurrying for safe-haven US treasuries.

The dollar recouped some territory in Asia as the fall in Japanese share prices took its toll on the yen.

But there was little momentum behind the dollar because of the US stock market turmoil. It was quoted at 123.55 yen, still about half a yen below its Tokyo level on Wednesday.

"There's been a vacuum in policymaking since the government signaled its tougher stance on bad loans last week," said Hiroaki Kuramochi, head of equities at Credit Lyonnais.

"Both foreign and domestic investors are disillusioned that the government appears no closer to announcing effective anti-deflation measures."

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday sank 2.87 percent after a slew of downgrades on corporate profits. It closed at 7,286.27—lows not seen since October 1997.

The broader Standard & Poor's Index shed 2.73 percent to 776.76. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite slipped 1.34 percent to 1,114, carving out new 6-year closing lows.

Wall Street's losses sparked an explosive rally in treasuries, where benchmark 10-year yields hit 44-year lows in the wake of multiple downgrades of global banks and growing anxiety over worsening credit quality.

Gold rose over a dollar in New York to trade around $320 an ounce and continued to edge higher in Asia.

Singapore shares fell after the government said estimates of gross domestic product for the third quarter showed a rise of 3.7 percent from a year earlier, smaller than expected, and a decline of 10.3 percent on an annualized quarter-on-quarter basis. *Reuters*

Insights on clinical experience program may help improve patient care

Medical professionals believe that the correct diagnosis and treatment of acid-related diseases, a class of ailments that includes ulcers, dyspepsia and gastro esophageal reflux disease, or GERD are quite important. While most Filipinos often put off visits to their doctor for acid-related upper abdominal pain, more commonly described as *pangangasim ng sikmura,* medical evidence suggests a need for the doctor to check on these frequently recurring symptoms. Such a need has been highlighted in a Clinical Experience Program (CEP) recently undertaken by AstraZeneca, one of the leading firms in the Philippine pharmaceutical market.

Involving more than 650 patients and more than 200 doctors all over the Philippines, the recently conducted Clinical Experience Program for acid-related diseases involved the acid-control drug esomeprazole (Nexium®). Other medical studies and investigations have, in fact, proven that there is a thin line separating the symptoms of GERD and dyspepsia. While the symptoms are similar, correct diagnosis is crucial for doctors to prescribe the appropriate treatments.

Findings from the AstraZeneca-led CEP show that there may be more Filipino GERD sufferers than previously imagined. According to the company Medical Director, Dr. Tomas M. Realiza, evidence suggests that the incidence of GERD is higher than the two to five percent pointed out by medical literature in the past. In fact, the CEP points to evidence that many cases of GERD, a relatively serious gastrointestinal disorder, are often misdiagnosed as dyspepsia, a generally more benign ailment.

"The preliminary findings," comments Dr. Venancio I. Gloria, a gastroenterologist with UP-PGH, "can have vast implications on the life of thousands of Filipinos suffering from symptoms." This is because GERD is characterized by often-bothersome symptoms such as heartburn, upper-abdominal pain and the involuntary regurgitation of stomach acids.

Dr. Venancio I. Gloria

In fact, a review of related studies from the Medical College of Wisconsin reveals that GERD is also a likely cause of sinusitis and tooth enamel damage. The studies indicate that regurgitation associated with cough leading to repetitive throat clearing, recurring hoarseness, and bad breath may be symptoms of acid-related conditions extending beyond the esophagus.

"This is why correct diagnosis and treatment is very important," says Dr. Gloria. "Without correct diagnosis, GERD sufferers often experience a decline in their quality of life," he adds. GERD sufferers often have difficulty sleeping, and a tough time working, exercising and even having sex. In addition, GERD patients also may suffer from a chronic and painful inflammation of the esophagus, and other complications like cancer, which makes Clinical Experience Programs all the more necessary.

"Pharmaceutical companies, and even the public learn from CEPs as much as doctors do," comments Dr. Realiza. Clinical Experience Program, which stemmed from a regulatory requirement called Monitored Release Program, is mandated by the Bureau of Food and Drug. The MRP is a requirement of the BFAD for monitoring the efficacy of new drugs, which, in the case of the AstraZeneca-led CEP involved esomeprazole (Nexium®), a product successfully launched by the company nearly a year ago.

According to Dr. Realiza, the CEP involving esomeprazole will help provide important medical data on acid-related diseases in the absence of a national study on gastrointestinal disorders. "Part of the vision for the CEP involving esomeprazole was to create a platform for further research in GERD in the Philippines. Hopefully, this objective, he concludes, is realized in the near future."

Borrowers

From page B1

FCDU loans peaked at $11.9 billion in the second quarter of 1997 but as the effects of the Asian financial crisis took its toll on the foreign exchange rate, dollar loans dropped to $7.9 billion in 1998 and to $7.29 billion in 1999.

By year 2000, loans from the dollar-deposit units of banks have shrunk to $6.2 billion, sliding further to $5.5 billion last year.

FCDU deposits, however, have remained largely stable from $14.5 billion in 1997, down by 12 percent in the last five years.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, October 10, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	56,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.5	106,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42	43	465,300
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	327,300
First E-Bank Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32.5	32	32	115,000
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	2,300
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	8,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	970	990	970	980	630
Sun Life Financial Serv.	795	795	795	795	220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	3,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.34	0.35	5,740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	440	440	435	437.5	18,700
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	5,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	40,000
Piltel	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	800,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	265	265	252.5	252.5	233,650
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	16,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.25	17.25	17	17	34,500
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	25.5	25.5	996,200
Petron Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	1,576,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.85	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	532,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.36	2.36	4,326,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3	3	3	3	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.14	2.16	488,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.25	13.25	797,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	21,000
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.82	0.82	180,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	51.5	52	4,507,900
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	261,200
Universal Robina Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	120,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	5	1,462,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.32	3,635,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	53,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	90,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.215	0.225	3,470,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	406,000
Ionics Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	9,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	2,850,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.095	0.11	0.095	0.11	2,100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.23	190,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	50,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	270,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	70,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	365,400
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	19.75	19.75	170,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	6,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	7,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	3,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	22,546,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,270,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	1,290,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.8	0.8	1,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	6,000,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	3,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.04	222,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	2,319,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	70,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.175	770,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2,100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0016	0.0014	0.0016	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	232,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0024	0.0024	13,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	80,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000

DISCLOSURES

QUEENBEE Resources Corp. has declared bonus warrants in favor of warrant holders as of Sept. 20 and will be payable on Oct. 16.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. will undertake a share buyback program to be implemented during the fourth quarter of 2002. The company plans to buy back up to 100 million shares at market price.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15, 2 p.m. at the Parañaque Rooms A & B of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders as of Oct. 21 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILTREAD Holdings Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price from P2 to P3 per share.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement with National Power Corp. reconnecting Picop's power supply. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Oct. 10, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.009693	1.000000	52.7900
Japan	Yen	0.008190	0.008111	0.4282
United Kingdom	Pound	1.580271	1.565100	82.6216
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129456	0.128213	6.7684
Switzerland	Franc	0.683055	0.676498	35.7123
Canada	Dollar	0.632046	0.625978	33.0454
Singapore	Dollar	0.565432	0.560004	29.5626
Australia	Dollar	0.554319	0.548998	28.9816
Bahrain	Dinar	2.678942	2.653224	140.0637
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269252	0.266667	14.0774
Brunei	Dollar	0.563288	0.557880	29.4505
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023132	0.022910	1.2094
UAE	Dirham	0.274933	0.272294	14.3744
Korea	Won	0.000817	0.000809	0.0427
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.990400	52.2832
Argentina	Real	0.272890	0.270270	14.2676
Brazil	Real	0.262394	0.259875	13.7188
Denmark	Kroner	0.134595	0.133303	7.0371
India	Rupee	0.020931	0.020730	1.0943
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265744	0.263193	13.8940
Mexico	New Peso	0.098795	0.097847	5.1653
New Zealand	Dollar	0.485662	0.481000	25.3920
Norway	Kroner	0.137172	0.135855	7.1718
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017128	0.016964	0.8955
South Africa	Rand	0.096455	0.095529	5.0430
Sweden	Kroner	0.108898	0.107853	5.6936
Syria	Pound	0.022843	0.022624	1.1943
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028840	0.028563	1.5078
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000676	0.000670	0.0354

Destiny questions dominant player's influence over Star TV

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE neither Star TV nor Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. has admitted to closing an exclusivity agreement, beleaguered cable TV operator Destiny Cable Inc. is questioning the extent of the dominant cable operator's power over the program provider.

In a statement, Destiny toyed with the notion that Star TV could now have direct interests in the country's largest cable television service provider after the merged SkyCable-Home Cable entity revealed that it was looking for a potential foreign partner.

"Despite its well-publicized financial problems, Beyond Cable hires a foreign national as (chief executive officer). With no shortage of locally available talent, could it be deduced that its main purpose represents the interests of parties other than local investors? Could it be possible that Star now has direct interests in Beyond?" Destiny asked in a statement.

This notion came as a result of industry talk that Star TV had already struck an agreement that gave Beyond Cable exclusive right to carry Star TV's top-rated channels: ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic.

On Oct. 3, Star TV informed Destiny that it could no longer carry these five premium channels starting Oct. 15 even though it could still continue airing 12 lower-tier programs.

Star Regional Private Ltd. regional director Charles Pollard stated no clear reason for the company's sudden decision to pull out these programs from Destiny's lineup.

In the face of all this talk, Star TV has remained quiet.

The program provider has declined to comment on Destiny Cable's allegations.

AIG to put $3.6M in RP

By Elena R. Torrijos

AMERICAN International Group Inc. will invest some $3.6 million to move a major part of its backroom operations to the Philippines.

AIG chair and chief executive Maurice Greenberge announced this yesterday at the Asian Institute of Management, where the Maurice Greenberg Chair and Research Center on Globalization for the AIM Washington SyCip Graduate School of Bsuiness was launched.

Greenberg said AIG American General, which as a group is the second largest life insurer in the United States, would outsource a big part of its backroom operations to the Philippines.

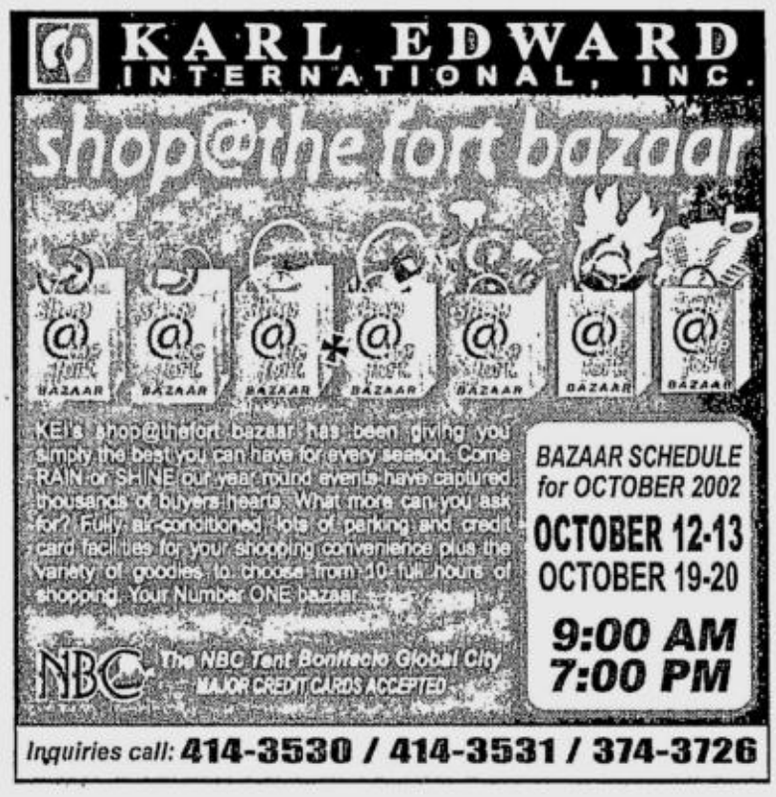
Initially, this would create 500 to 600 jobs, increasing to thousands in a few years, Greenberg said.

"We'll probably outsource other parts of our business in other parts of the world to the Philippines," Greenberg said.

The backroom operations will be established through a joint venture between American General and AIG's local subsidiary.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week October 8, 2002	Last Week October 1, 2002
Prulink Bond Fund	1.02301	1.01720
Prulink Managed Fund	1.00902	1.01177

* Note PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18 2002



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SINS OF OMISSION

BIR seen snaring 10,000 tax cheats by year-end

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUGGESTING the extent of tax fraud in the country, at least 10,000 tax cheats are expected to fall into the hands of the Bureau of Internal Revenue this year from the latest count of 616 companies as of last week, according to BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

Apart from the 616 firms found understating their revenues, which allowed them to pay lower income, value-added and excise taxes, 20 other companies were found by the BIR and the One Stop Shop Credit and Duty Drawback Center of availing themselves of income tax credits twice.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the new tax fraud had deprived the government of at least P1 billion in revenues.

The new scheme is the latest in a string of tax payment irregularities that the government has uncovered since the middle of the year.

The first is the understatement of VAT liabilities, and the other is the P432-million tax diversion scam uncovered in the Binangonan branch of Land Bank of the Philippines.

"My target is to send out 10,000 demand letters to tax cheats by year-end," the BIR's Parayno said.

Citing the enhanced capability of the BIR to snare tax cheats, Parayno expressed confidence he would achieve this goal.

"I have a lot of demand letters to sign on my desk. Our intensive audit is working," he reported.

As of the latest count, the BIR has caught 616 companies that understated their VAT liabilities by a total of P12.6 billion.

Snaring 10,000 tax cheats will involve hundreds of billions of pesos in foregone government revenues, Parayno said.

He said the BIR would issue a revenue regulation to remind taxpayers that availing of tax credits twice was prohibited.

This was in reaction to companies found claiming their importation as input taxes or deduction from the taxable base, and then going to the One Stop Shop to ask for tax credits for the same without correcting their earlier tax declaration.

Tax credits are refund payments made by the government on the duties and taxes paid by export enterprises for imported materials that they use.

Instead of cash, the government issues tax credit certificates that qualified companies use to settle their tax obligations.

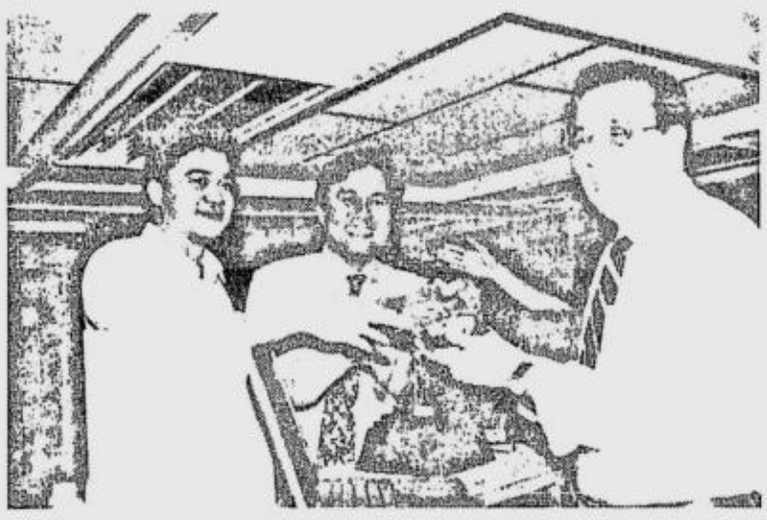
An export enterprise can use tax credits to pay its own taxes or transfer these to BOI-registered companies in exchange for goods, services or cash.

The One Stop Shop is an interagency group composed of the Department of Finance, Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs, and Board of Investments.

"We want to address, if any, the ambiguities in the current regulation because some of the companies found to have double-availed incentives claimed that they did nothing wrong," said Parayno.

He stressed that had the companies corrected their tax declarations and paid taxes for the importation for which they had already claimed tax credits, then there should be nothing wrong.

What was irregular, Parayno said, was that companies snared did not bother to correct their tax declarations.



CONSUMER AWARENESS
Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. (left) and Energy Secretary Vince Perez Jr. (center) present Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion a copy of the "Consumer Guidebook for Electricity Services during the launching of "Consumer Welfare Month" this October. The booklet is intended to be a reference for consumers on electricity matters, such as consumer-centered provisions of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

Order banning used car imports out this month

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG will issue this month an executive order banning the importation of all second-hand vehicles, particularly in the Subic Bay Freeport, except those allowed by laws such as special purpose vehicles and pre-owned units of returning Filipinos or "balikbayans."

In a speech during Toyota Autoparts Philippines Inc.'s 10th anniversary Wednesday night, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II announced that the government was readying selective measures that would finally stop the importation of used vehicles, regarded by the local auto industry as a scourge.

Roxas said the Department of Trade and Industry would finalize the draft executive order in the next few days.

Trade officials plan to send their draft to Malacañang next week.

The executive order should be implemented this month, more than a year after Japanese and American businessmen came out with their condemnation of the surge in used vehicle imports and its harsh impact on the industry.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. explained that the executive order would consolidate the fragmented rules and regulations on imported, second-hand vehicles and the non-implementation of these rules.

While the government strictly regulates second-hand vehicle imports and right-hand drive vehicles are banned from entry into the Philippines, Subic's status as a "special economic zone" has been used by traders and auctioneers as a loophole to bring in the prohibited units.

The nation's best personnel manager

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE JOB of a personnel manager is exceedingly hazardous to one's health but immensely rewarding to one's soul. If it is money or possessions that one primarily seeks in life, personnel management is not the profession to choose. For CEOs and COOs have neither fully appreciated nor truly understood the utmost difficulties and extreme risks that personnel managers must go through in dealing with human resources in the company, from hiring to retiring or death or disability, whichever comes earlier.

It is only to be pursued if prospective personnel managers are deeply enamored by the euphemisms of nurturing people, of touching their lives in the corporate world and empowering them with vision, core values and inspirations, so that they could contribute meaningfully to the business goals and thereby help build the nation. The HR profession is packaged in luminous projections of higher idealism bordering on the spiritual dimensions. But when push comes to shove, when one faces the rough and tumble of it all, the idealism collapses like a deck of cards.

One of a kind

But yearly, the PMAP (Personnel Management Association of the Philippines), also enamored by the lure to be quixotic in a milieu of too much stress on materialism, pursues the best and the noblest among mortals and embarks into a search for a gem in the midst of too much stench and decay, in this dog-eat-dog crazy rat race in the business world. The PMY (Personnel Manager of the Year) annual search expresses the perennial optimism of HR professionals, our consistent insistence that somehow there can still be some outstanding performance, in a barren milieu suffocated by too much mediocrity.

A gem among us

Thus, the board of judges led by I-Bank's Ramon Sy, Honda's Sol Delantar and PMAP's former president and 1985 Personnel Manager of the Year Jake Kliatchko unanimously chosen for 2002 Ms Imelda H. Centeno, corporate VP for HR and OD of Unilab. She is one choice that the PMAP board led by president E. Espinosa had no reservation and had readily agreed to.

Imee has been credited for transforming both her present company's HR function and also that of her former employer, Johnson and Johnson, from being traditional to being strategic. Thus, in the awards night in Cebu City some days ago, the CEOs of both companies came to honor her with their presence.

Excellence in HR management

Because of Imee's initiatives and leadership, both J & J and Unilab won the prestigious Employer of the Year Award in 1994 and in 2001, respectively. Unilab, of course, won it earlier also in 1979. But Imee's entry into Unilab has provided the impetus to win it again last year. Imee is a silent achiever who never seeks accolade or recognition. Her level of excellence speaks for itself eloquently, it is prestige that seeks her.

She is a mentor to her staff as she selflessly develops them along agreed career paths and at paces and styles mutually acceptable. This is Imee's way of giving back to the HR profession the many gifts of learning she was afforded to during the early years of her HR career.

Balanced work life

Despite her success in career, Imee never neglects her family. She constantly balances her time and attention between the mounting demands of her job and her responsibilities as a wife to her husband and mother to her kids. She is lucky to have a family that gives her enough space and allows her to be the best that she can be. Not all of us are as lucky. But to Imee, it is not really luck. She works hard to deserve it.

In J & J, I saw personally the gym that was put up by management for its employees. That was only one of the many HR and ER programs that Imee started there. Unilab too has a fantastic set of employee programs, facilities and services that are difficult to parallel in this country. Of course, Imee did not cause all these to happen singlehandedly. But I'm sure, her gentle persuasive ways, her persistence and focus did help a lot in the adoption of such pro-employee HR interventions.

Humble beginnings

The life of Imee, like the lives of many great men and women, has been a long and difficult journey from many difficulties and extreme sacrifices, hard work and determination to what she is today and to what she still can be in the years to come. She was still a kid when her mother was widowed. As an orphan, Imee had to take life in her hands by helping her mom sell things in the streets, in between her elementary school days.

She worked as a part-time sewer in a handicraft factory while in high school. Despite all odds, she graduated valedictorian. She entered college as an entrance scholar. She studied in PUP and earned a degree in accountancy. She graduated cum laude and immediately passed the CPA Board Exam.

The past guides the future

In receiving PMAP's prestigious award, Imee thanked the Lord above all and acknowledged the great sacrifice of her mom in rearing her to be what she is today. She also thanked her employers, her bosses, mentors, colleagues and her family for the recognition.

It is predicted that Imee will go more places and earn more laurels. In PMAP, as we honor her, we also honor the thousands of other unsung HR practitioners nationwide who labor long and hard without even a token of appreciation from their bosses and without having been rewarded for the great sacrifices they have embraced as a way of life, to make a meaningful difference in the life of people in an organization.

Honor among the unsung

Somehow, we also honor ourselves for being able to find a gem amid too much frivolities and shams. Imee gives us reasons to hope. Day to day, HR managers face tremendous burdens of deciding on the lives and careers of employees. They face the union, deal with management and have to contend with other stakeholders.

Imee Centeno provides us with inspiration as we face the many difficulties attendant to our job. We thank her for showing us a ray of hope at a time of too much challenges and difficulties.

Bancassurance rules don't make sense, says AIG chief

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT should reconsider its requirement that banks must own a certain amount of equity in an insurance company before they can use their distribution networks to cross-sell insurance products.

Maurice Greenberg, chair and chief executive of the American International Group and a member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's international advisory council, told reporters yesterday that such a system did not make sense and no other country had a similar requirement.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to issue a circular soon allowing banks to engage in "bancassurance," or the cross-selling of insurance products using the distribution networks of banks.

Under the central bank's draft circular to be approved by the Monetary Board, banks may sell through their networks certain life and non-life insurance products of insurance companies wherein the bank has at least a 5-percent stake.

Only commercial banks will be eligible to engage in bancassurance initially.

Napocor to buy P4.3B worth of coal in 3 months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. will hold between November and January public auctions involving some P4.3 billion worth of coal supply contracts.

Documents released by Napocor showed that the state-run power firm was set to purchase some 2.67 million metric tons of coal to power its power plants in Pangasinan, Zambales, Quezon Province and Cebu.

Three contracts for 325,000 metric tons of coal each for the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant in Pangasinan and 600-MW power plant in Masinloc, Zambales, would be up for auction on Nov. 8 and 29 and on Dec. 13.

A tender for 70,000 metric tons of coal intended for the 105-MW Naga power plant in Cebu would be up for bidding on Dec. 13.

A fourth contract for Sual would be auctioned off on Jan. 10. The contract would be good for two years, with 325,000 tons expected to be delivered for each year.

A company source said Napocor was planning to secure supply needs for the 700-MW Pagbilao power plant in Quezon Province through government-to-government deals.

Napocor is holding the coal contract auctions at a time when lawmakers and interest groups like Greenpeace are calling on the government to stop using coal to produce electricity.

Critics have lashed out at the use of coal-fired power plants, blaming these facilities for the rise in toxic emissions that endanger the environment and the people living around such facilities.

Reacting to such criticism, a group of coal-fired power plant operators reiterated its commitment to comply with environmental rules concerning the use of coal to produce electricity.

On Wednesday, the Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plants Group issued a manifesto affirming their commitment to comply with environmental rules.

The group includes Napocor, Mirant Philippines Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

Napocor runs the 600-MW Masinloc and Calaca power plants, while Mirant operates the Sual and Pagbilao power plants and sells its production to Napocor.

Quezon Power is one of the Manila Electric Co.'s independent power suppliers.

In August, Napocor officer in charge Roland Quilala said the firm would continue using coal-fired power plants, as these had never been cited for any violation by regulatory government agencies.

Jesus Is Lord breached contract, joint-venture partner insists

By Abigail L. Ho

THE "Jesus Is Lord" religious group would not be facing a multimillion-peso suit had it honored its contract and not wanted too much too soon, its business partners said yesterday.

Advertising veteran Greg Garcia III, now president of JIL's joint-venture partner Entertainment Network Inc. (Enter-Net), said in an interview that the religious group demanded too many things outside of its contract even without fulfilling its end of the bargain.

Under the 60-40 joint venture agreement the parties signed in June last year, JIL's Zoe Broadcasting Network Inc. was supposed to turn over management control of Channel 11 to businessman Benito Araneta's Enter-Net, but it never did so.

The turnover should have taken place after Enter-Net paid Zoe Broadcasting P100 million in "goodwill money," plus P1 million every month for expenses, Garcia said.

But instead of a turnover, Enter-Net got a letter from Zoe Broadcasting on May 14, 2002 demanding that the goodwill money be raised to P200 million.

It also demanded that the monthly payment be increased to P3 million and a tithe of 10 percent of the joint venture's gross profits be remitted to JIL.

Its other demands included subsidized financial support for the establishment of a purely religious TV station (Channel 33), annual financial guarantee of minimum profits and the absorption of Zoe Broadcasting's 51 existing employees until the establishment of the new TV station.

"When we didn't give in to their demands, they started preempting regular shows with religious shows. We've been thinking of filing a case against them since October last year but we waited until now because we were hoping we could still settle matters amicably," Garcia said.

SMITS Inc. chair Alberto Manlapit (second from left) and SAP Philippines chief executive Ian Black seal an agreement to provide information services to the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. Looking on are (from left) Boy Franco, president of SMITS; Juan Miguel Vazquez, PFPPC president; and Earl Santos, country manager for the financial sector of SAP Philippines.

Global economy to grow more slowly–UN

UNITED NATIONS—The global economy will grow more slowly than had been expected this year and next, due largely to uncertainty in the Middle East, declining US stock prices, and economic turmoil in Latin America, according to a revised UN forecast.

The Global Economic Outlook issued Wednesday predicted economic growth of just 1.7 percent this year and 2.9 percent next year—down from April's forecast of 1.8 percent this year and 3.2 percent next year.

At their April meeting, economists from around the world predicted that the economic recovery would reach full momentum in the second half of this year. But the new report forecasts that peak economic recovery will not take place until around mid-2003.

"Not only that, the sustainability of the ongoing recovery remains subject to a number of uncertainties," it said.

Rising "geopolitical tensions" in the Middle East are an economic wild card. The decline of US stock prices is of historic dimensions in terms of duration and severity. The financial crisis in Argentina has spilled into Latin America, and corporate scandals are increasing in industrialized countries, especially the United States, the forecast said.

The Mideast turmoil has also led to a more than 50-percent rise in oil prices from January through September, adding to economic problems in many countries, it said.

"These new factors, plus the havoc wreaked by unusually large natural disasters such as floods and drought in a number of economies, have exacerbated the original weaknesses in the world economy," the economists said. "In fact, in mid-2002 these developments almost aborted the tentative recovery."

The economists warned that a prolonged continuation of the stock market slide in the United States could push recovery beyond mid-2003.

The Global Economic Outlook is based on submissions by global economists ahead of this week's meeting in Bologna, Italy, of Project LINK, a cooperative, nongovernmental research effort coordinated by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the University of Toronto.

The economists said the United States would remain the main engine for economic growth "but with not much momentum."

"Following the mild recession of 2001, the United States has been on a path of economic recovery, but the strength of the mending process has remained anemic," the report said.

It forecast 2.3-percent economic growth in the United States this year and 3.2 percent in 2003.

Elsewhere, it said, economic recovery in Japan and Western Europe "will remain fragile," with the Japanese economy continuing "to be dragged down by fiscal and debt difficulties" and European economies constrained by fiscal and monetary policies.

In west Asia, economic growth is subject to great uncertainty due to the increased volatility in oil prices and mounting geopolitical tensions, the report said. *AP*

CONSTRUCTION workers on the street at the center of the financial district in Singapore. Singapore's economy was estimated to have grown 3.7 percent in the September quarter from the previous year, the government said. AFP

Singapore Q3 figures point to slow recovery

SINGAPORE—Singapore's economy grew by 3.7 percent in the third quarter of 2002 as compared with a year earlier, according to government estimates released Thursday. The rate was slower than expected and will likely lower forecasts for overall growth in 2002.

Even more worrisome: On an annualized basis, which takes third-quarter data and extends it to cover a 12-month period, gross domestic product fell 10.3 percent in the quarter compared with the previous quarter, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said in a statement.

Growth for 2002 is now likely to come in at the lower end of the government's target of 3 percent to 4 percent, economists said.

Expansion in the manufacturing sector continued in the third quarter, but the construction sector was weak due to a sluggish property market, the ministry said.

This wealthy island nation recently emerged from its worst recession in three decades. Singapore's economy shrank 2 percent in 2001, surpassing the previous full-year contraction of 1.6 percent recorded in 1985.

The third-quarter figures serve to reinforce some analysts' view that the city-state's economic recovery may be slowing due to persistently weak global electronics demand and a struggling US economy.

The manufacture and export of electronic products like semiconductors, computer parts and telecommunications equipment are Singapore's key growth drivers.

The city state also exports chemicals and refined petroleum products, and is also a major hub for financial services and transportation in Southeast Asia.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED
3rd Flr. Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of September 20, 2002

ASSETS		Amount
Cash and Cash Items	₱	3,062,018.15
Due from Central Bank		315,174,742.00
Due from Other Banks		1,030,850,025.94
Trading Account Securities		2,295,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		1,301,342,001.44
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		2,735,637,501.25
Equity Investments (Net)		2,570,850.00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		1,128,127,078.53
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures and Equipments (Net)		12,481,884.01
Other Assets (Net). Others		107,948,975.81
TOTAL ASSETS	₱	9,831,124,797.91

LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	₱	178,352,136.93
Savings Deposits		3,770,196,154.49
Time Deposits		1,660,727,809.35
Special/Other Deposits		8,750.00
Due to Central Bank		2,270,545.00
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		3,323,781,331.73
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,508,127.24
Bills Payable		
Interbank Borrowings		52,558,801.05
Others		
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		58,010.03
Other Liabilities		283,180,817.55
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱	9,292,644,390.41

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		Amount
Assigned Capital	₱	444,323,634.54
Other Capital Accounts		104,156,772.96
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱	548,480,407.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱	9,831,124,797.91

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	₱	1,114,505,017.46
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		3,565,375,523.75
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		4,239,483,534.53
Other Contingent Accounts		5,822,095,283.15
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	₱	14,741,549,358.89

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE
As At 30 September 2001
In AUD Millions

Capital	5,250
Surplus	5,282
Profits	4,582
Total Deposits	104,874
Total Resources	185,493

Other Information

1. Deposits of:
   a. Government — nil
   b. Banks — 351,199.00
   c. Trust Department — nil
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio	0% Small Ent.	2% Medium Ent.
Actual Compliance	113%	204%

3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	149,123,381.00
4. Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio	2.88%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	149,190,322.00
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	78,705,801.81
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	74,576,425.75
8. Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital	24.11%
Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity	19.43%
Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO	4.82%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	3,422,781.00
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances	0.07%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans /advances	nil
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio	nil
13. "Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank	2,197,654,253.20

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 20, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S

WE, JOHNNY CO and KIM CHAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

(Org) Signed JOHNNY CO
General Manager and
Country Head

(Org) Signed KIM CHAN
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 04 October 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No. 11917495, issued at Makati City, on February 21, 2002 and Passport No. E7048749, issued at Jakarta, Indonesia, on June 2, 1998.

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN B. MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec. 31, 2002
PTR No. 8453136WDTD
Date Issued January 2, 2002

Doc. No. 124
Book No. 26
Page No. LXLII
Series of 02

Israeli, American win Nobel Prize for economics

STOCKHOLM—Daniel Kahneman, a citizen of both Israel and the United States, and Vernon L. Smith of the US were on Wednesday awarded the 2002 Nobel Economics Prize for innovative work in the fields of psychological and experimental economics.

Kahneman, a psychologist, was lauded for having "integrated insights from psychological research into economic science," while Smith was honored for having "established laboratory experiments as a tool in empirical economic analysis, especially in the study of alternative market mechanisms."

Kahneman laid the foundation for a new field of research, the jury said. The first Israeli to win the prestigious prize, he has demonstrated how human decisions may systematically depart from those predicted by standard economic theory.

"Kahneman has thus demonstrated that in situations with uncertainty, human judgment often exploits rules of thumb which systematically contradict fundamental propositions in probability theory," the jury said.

Smith's work has focused on the role of auctions, which are traditionally used to organize markets for raw materials or financial instruments, and more recently, for deregulation and privatization of public monopolies such as broadcasting rights.

Smith has also evaluated different mechanisms for allocating airport time slots using computer-assisted markets.

The Nobel jury said economics had long been considered a non-experimental science, where researchers have had to rely on field data, or observations of the real world.

But controlled laboratory experiments have emerged as a vital component of economic research, and, in some instances, experimental results have shown that basic postulates in economic theory should be modified.

The process has been generated by research in two areas: cognitive psychologists who have studied human judgment and decision-making, and experimental economists who have tested models in the laboratory.

The Nobel jury lauded Kahneman, 68, a professor of psychology and professor of public affairs at Princeton University, and Smith, 75, a professor of economics and law at George Mason University in Virginia, as innovators in the two fields.

In an interview with Swedish news agency TT after the announcement, Smith said he was happy Kahneman was the person with whom he shared the prize, and said he planned to donate his half of the 10 million kronor (1.10 million euros, or 1.07 million dollars) prize sum to research.

Smith has served as a consultant on the privatization of electric power in Australia and New Zealand and participated in numerous private and public discussions of energy deregulation in the United States.

He is also the author or co-author of more than 200 publications on capital theory, finance, natural resource economics and experimental economics.

Kahneman, meanwhile, was born in Tel Aviv, but received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1961. *AFP*

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Honda Cars welcomes new president and GM

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) recently announced in a cocktail reception held at Hotel Intercontinental Manila's Grand Ballroom the arrival of its new president and general manager Mitsunari Takano, who officially assumed office Oct. 1. Takano succeeds Kenji Otaka, who has been assigned to handle Honda's operations in Indonesia.

TAKANO

Previous to his new assignment, Takano was the main figure in establishing a joint venture company Honda Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. In Selangor, Malaysia. He then became director and general manager for the sales and distribution division of the company.

Takano has been with Honda for more than two decades. A year after graduating from the prestigious Waseda University in Japan in 1980 with a degree in Economics, Takano joined Honda Motor Co. Ltd. (Honda's headquarters in Japan) and has been assigned various posts abroad. After working at the North American sales division in Japan, he was sent to Honda of America Mfg. Inc in Ohio in 1989. After his four-year stint, he was assigned in Japan to handle the motorcycle operations of East Asia and Oceania region, and subsequently sent to various Honda automobile manufacturing companies including Honda Cars Thailand Co. Ltd.

Takano expressed enthusiasm with his new assignment. In his speech at the cocktail reception, he said, "I am very excited to work here in the Philippines," adding that "I am pleased to know of the government programs that will support the car industry in the country and the latest marketing situation."

Outgoing president and GM Otaka has only categorical words for his successor as he expressed confidence in Takano's thorough knowledge of Asia, which would "help vitalize HCPI's operations stronger."

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT CARD RELAUNCHED

BPI Card recently celebrated the relaunch of the BPI Express Credit Card, the sensible choice for credit cardholders everywhere, at Club 1851, BPI head office, Makati City. The event unveiled the latest design of the BPI Express Card and featured a segment on proper credit card management. BPI Card likewise previewed the new Express Credit Card TV commercial. The BPI Express Credit Card charges the lowest finance charge and allows cardholders to save on days of interest charges. The card also doubles as an Ayala Discount Plus Card where rebates and discounts are enjoyed when it is used at participating Ayala Mall merchants. Leading the relaunch bash are (from left) Teresita Tan, BPI SVP for card banking, Agnes Aragon, BPI Card assistant manager, Veronica Tapia-Merk, BPI VP for corporate communications, Federico Guba, BPI VP for credit, Aurelio Montinola III, BPI SEVP, Marion Kohchet-Chua, BPI Card VP for marketing and sales, and Josephine Ocampo, BPI Card president.

ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE PLANS FOR JAM

St. Joseph's College High School batch 1978 alumnae are gearing up for a spectacular three-day Silver Jubilee Homecoming in 2003. A meeting was held recently to plan for a series of activities that will culminate to the grand reunion. First in the lineup is a jamming session with the Q&A Band at Suburbia, Malate on Oct. 17. The show promises to be a fun-filled night of '60s and '70s retro music. The jamming session is sponsored by Sustagen Premium, Jufran Sweet Chili Sauce, Tommy's Premium Quality Tuna, and Beam Toothpaste. For details, call Jing Azada-Manalastas at 647-1237 and 551-3472.

Agora Conference opens today; ad CEO Ong session speaker

YOLANDA Villanueva-Ong, group chair of Campaigns & Grey and Agora awardee for outstanding achievement in marketing management, will be one of the session speakers in "The Art of Marketing Warfare".

Ong, aside from the Agora award, has a string of prestigious awards and achievements, including the first Filipino to judge in the Clio awards; Lifetime Achievement Award, Creative Guild of the Philippines; Towns Award for Communications/Social Marketing; Outstanding Professional Award in Mass Communication, UP Alumni Association: Professional Achievement Award, UP Mass Communications Alumni Association; Araw Awards; founding president of the Creative Guild of the Philippines; president of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines; International Broadcasters' Awards; and Gold Awards given by the Philippine Advertising Congress.

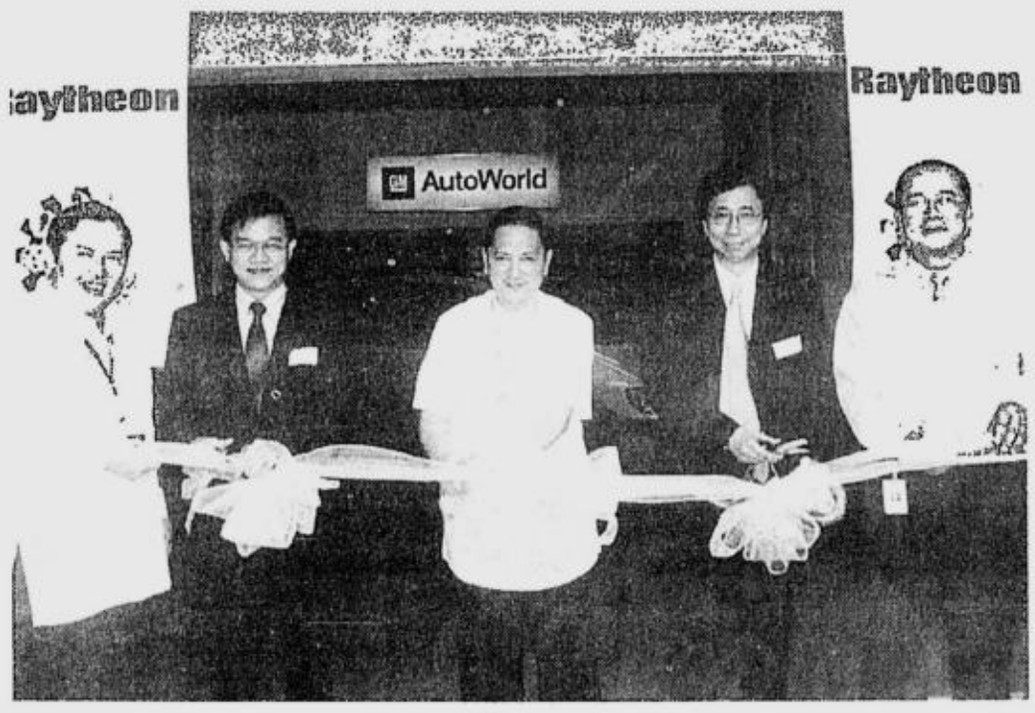
The founder of Campaigns Inc. (now Campaigns & Grey), Ong, aside from her work experience in advertising, had training on social marketing, film animation techniques in various Hollywood studios and television production on film and VTR in London, New York and Chicago; exposure on advocacy, lobbying and political experience in the United States; observation tours and cross-posting/training in JWT offices in the US and Europe; as well as other leadership and management courses.

Prior to Campaigns, she was with J. Walter Thompson and Foote, Cone & Belding, both in the Manila and Hong Kong offices, in the creative department.

An AB Journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines, Ong has a Master of Public Administration obtained from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. She also took graduate units in MBA.

In "The Art of Marketing Warfare", Ong will talk about "Creating Differentiation in Marketing Implementation". In this session, participants will have the opportunity to analyze how companies with parity value proposition grow their business by understanding the often ignored but critical components of marketing implementation.

For more details on this and other sessions, call the PMA secretariat at 892-3144, 893-7127 and 813-0466.



1ST GM TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER

General Motors Automobiles Philippines (GMPh), the local subsidiary of General Motors Corp., recently inaugurated Asia's first GM Technical Training Center at the Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI) in Makati City. The training center is the product of a tripartite agreement among GMPh, Raytheon Professional Services, and DBTI. General Motors, as it strengthens its commitment to serve its Filipino customers, forged ties with Raytheon to provide training to technical teachers at DBTI, who in turn will teach future GMPh technicians. The training facility boasts of state-of-the-art computers, automotive machines and tools, and world-class training modules. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) Bro. Elmer Rodriguez, DBTI technical director, James Lim, GMPh president and general manager, Fr. Luisito Castaneda, Don Bosco rector, Derek Tse, Raytheon managing director, and Mike Nacua, GMPh after-sales manager.

Bro. Dizon 12th DLS-AU president

TODAY at 9 a.m., Bro. Rolando Dizon, president of the De La Salle System will be installed as the 12th president of the DLS-AU in simple investiture rites to be held at the Chapel of Our Lady of Victory at the Salvador Araneta campus in Malabon City. Former President Fidel V. Ramos, together with Ma. Victoria Araneta Concepcion, both visitators of the university, will present the Academic Collar. Sister Luz Emmanuel Soriano RA, the chair of the board of trustees will present Bro. Rolando Dizon as the incoming president while Dr. Ester Garcia, chair of the Commission on Higher Education will administer his oath of office. The investiture rites will be preceded by a concelebrated mass.

Gregorio Araneta University Foundation (GAUF) was formally integrated into the De La Salle University system and will now be called De La Salle–Araneta University (DLS-AU). It is the 7th member school under the De La Salle system.

The Araneta University was an agricultural development-oriented university founded by Don Salvador Araneta. Don Salvador donated it into a foundation in 1966 and was fondly referred to as his sixth heir. The foundation has a board of visitators consisting of former President Ramos, Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and Ma. Victoria Araneta-Concepcion, one of Don Salvador's five daughters.

According to Concepcion, her father had big dreams for GAUF. "He envisioned it to be a place of learning, molding the students to be men of vision and mission in life, one of love and service to his family, to his country, to humanity and God," she said. She further added that "GAUF is my father's legacy and the Araneta family is entrusting this heir to the De La Salle Community because we believe they can continue what my father had started and provide the leadership to carry her to greater heights". According to her, the turnover of GAUF to De La Salle is a fitting commemoration of her father's 100th birth anniversary.

Concepcion and Sister Luz warmly welcome Bro. Dizon as the new president of DLS-AU. They cited Bro. Dizon's long-time involvement in the university, having served as a member of the board of trustees from 1985 to 86 and later as chair from 1987 to 1995. They expressed confidence that he can continue to steer forward the school to create a university of service, for God and country that GAUF was meant to be.

Araneta was also a noted nationalist-constitutionalist, philanthropist and pioneer in agro-industrial development. He was the secretary of agriculture under the administration of former President Ramon Magsaysay. He was also the founder of Feati University and food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp.

WNCAA, ADIDAS, AVON TEAM UP IN VOLLEYBALL

The WNCAA-Adidas 33rd season moves on with the Avon Volleyball Championships staged Sept. 29 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. WNCAA is participated in by 15 schools and features 13 sports. Shown during the courtesy visit at the Avon office are the senior brand managers of Avon Anna Veroy Romano and Rica Ramos with Vivian Manila (center), WNCAA president. Avon gave out samples during the games, and awarded Avon Faces of the Day at the game venue, where fabulous prizes were given away to lucky ladies. WNCAA-Adidas 33rd Season is marketed by Tactical Xperts Corp. under Andre Rodriguez. Sponsors include Don Henricos, Close Up, Elle, RPN 9; and RX 93.1 Monster Radio.

Loan application in 15 minutes, no kidding

IT USED to be that applying and getting a bank loan took forever to complete. Day One will find you going to the bank to get an application form and receiving instructions on how to fill it up and what documents need to be submitted. Depending on how much free time you have on your hands, completing the form and sending it back to the bank with the required documents may take a few days.

Then you wait as they verify your information and documents, which can be as short as one week to as long as two months. And when you finally get the news that you are qualified, brace yourself for more waiting as they process your check.

All told, you would be lucky to get the loan in time to cover the particular need for which you applied.

Fortunately, those days are over. Citibank recently launched the revolutionary Citibank Installment Loan where application can take all of 15 minutes. Faster than you can cook sinigang.

And you get the loan proceeds in as soon as seven days.

Citibank Installment Loan is a breakthrough product that aims to help individuals finance planned and unplanned expenses less the slow and cumbersome loan application process. It requires no collateral, co-maker or initial deposit, and can be used for almost anything including home repair, furniture and appliance purchases, school tuition payment, bills payment, medical expenses, insurance premiums payment, lifestyle expenditures, and travels.

To apply, simply call 423-3333 from Mondays to Saturdays between 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. You will be instantly connected to a Citibank representative who will process the application online and will advise you of how much you can borrow and payment period.

After getting a provisional approval from a Citibank representative, a bank messenger will then deliver the application form to you at your home or office for your signature and to pick up the required documents. Don't forget to indicate how you wish to receive the money—by Fund Transfer where Citibank will credit the loan amount to your bank account, or by Manager's Check which will be delivered to your residence or place of work.

A borrower may loan any amount from P15,000 to P1 million, payable for as long as 36 months to as short as 12 months. Interest rates range from 1.5 percent to 2 percent per month.

Income requirements are as low as P120,000 annually for employed individuals and P180,000 for the self-employed. Non-Citibank customers are welcome to apply, as being a bank customer or a credit cardholder are not prerequisites to getting loan approval.

For your convenience, monthly statements will be sent to you to remind you of payment due dates. You can settle your bills at any Citibank accredited payment centers including MegaLink/BancNet-affiliated banks and SM Department Stores nationwide.

Aside from calling 423-3333, inquiries on the Citibank Installment Loan may also be directed to accredited Citibank sales representatives found in various mall booths or trade events.

Dockworkers start tackling backlog

A SAILBOAT passes a container ship anchored in Elliott Bay in Seattle on Wednesday. Container ships slowly began moving into nearby loading terminals today. Granting a request by the Bush administration, a federal judge in San Francisco on Tuesday ordered an end to the 10-day lockout, which stranded tons of cargo and cost the fragile US economy between $1 billion and $2 billion a day. AP

LOS ANGELES—West Coast dockworkers returned to their jobs under court order and were greeted with a huge backlog of cargo that built up over 10 days of a labor lockout.

"It's been very hard. We're just glad to be back at work," said Karen Korbich, a dockworker for the past nine years. "We expect it to be very congested."

Dockworkers at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach held a rally before returning to their jobs. They were joined by civil rights activist Jesse Jackson.

The cargo backlog caused by the lockout could take more than two months to clear.

"Simply put, it's more complicated to fix something than to break it," said John Pachtner, a spokesperson for the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping companies and terminal operators.

The 10,500 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union reported at hiring halls Wednesday, ending a lockout that shut down 29 ports from San Diego to Seattle and cost the nation's fragile economy up to $2 billion a day by holding up exports and imports.

Dockworkers were expected to labor around the clock, with shifts beginning at 6 p.m., 3 a.m. and 8 a.m., officials said.

President George W. Bush intervened Tuesday, obtaining an injunction to end the shutdown.

Among the first cargo to be shipped will be perishables like seafood, meat and produce in refrigerated containers aboard some of the more than 200 ships anchored off the coast. After that, shipping companies will set their own priorities based on their customers' needs and demand for cargo. *AP*

BOJ board meets, all eyes on loan report

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan began a two-day policy meeting on Thursday with a precipitous fall in stock prices to 19-year lows complicating its task of cleaning up banks' bad loans and getting money flowing in the economy.

With short-term interest rates already at zero, economists expected the BOJ to resist pressure to further loosen monetary policy in some way, especially with the government due to unveil a package of anti-deflation measures soon.

The main interest therefore lay in a report from the BOJ that was expected to call for a stricter evaluation of banks' assets and an injection of public funds if stepped-up efforts to get rid of bad loans depleted their capital.

"With the outlook on global and Japanese economies increasingly uncertain, of course there's pressure (on the BOJ).

But we are more interested in the report," said Takahiro Tsuchiya, an economist at Daiwa Institute of Research.

"I think the point of the report will likely be that there's a limit to what the BOJ can do on its own, that they've come to that limit and the government must now take more steps to revive the industry." Economists agree that a lack of progress on the bad debt issue has been a major factor behind Japan's economic woes, but there is equally a widespread belief that tough action to solve the problem could cause an avalanche of bankruptcies, which has fueled the sell-off in the stock market.

Pressure is therefore mounting on the authorities to tread carefully and to provide measures to support the economy at the same time as they act to get rid of the bad loans. *Reuters*

US monetary policy stimulative—Fed official

ALBUQUERQUE—Kansas City Federal Reserve President Thomas Hoenig said on Wednesday the US economy faces a number of challenges but that the current stance of monetary and fiscal policy should keep the recovery on track.

"The challenges are obvious . . . and they're real," Hoenig said, mentioning the stock market's prolonged slump, uncertainties stemming from the prospect of a US military strike on Iraq, a dimmer global economic outlook and the labor dispute that had shut down ports on the West Coast.

Still, he told an economic forum sponsored by the Kansas City Fed that the US economy should post growth somewhere between an annual rate of 2 and 3 percent for the second half of this year, and pick up further in 2003.

"As we look to next year, assuming no surprise, we expect growth to be somewhere in the 3, with some good results maybe 3-½ percent range," Hoenig said, adding that fiscal and monetary policy should help ensure that outcome.

"As we speak, monetary policy and fiscal policy remain stimulative." The Fed lowered interest rates aggressively last year, bringing the benchmark federal funds rate to a four-decade low of 1.75 percent, where it has remained since last December.

However, recent signs the US economy may be losing momentum have left economists closely divided on whether the US central bank will lower borrowing costs further.

When Fed policymakers last gathered on Sept. 24 they held rates steady, while saying risks to the economy were to the downside. But two officials broke ranks, voting instead for an immediate rate reduction.

Hoenig, who does not currently have a vote on the Fed's interest rate panel, suggested he thought rates are low enough to ensure the sluggish recovery does not stall.

"It is in fact by any definition accommodative," he said of the current level of the federal funds rate.

Still, he offered a cautionary note.

"There are risks to the economy and we have to be mindful and alert to those risks and ready to respond to those risks if they should start showing themselves," he said.

The regional Fed bank chief said that since last year's recession was mild by historic standards, it was no surprise the recovery has been mild as well.

He said that while consumer spending had gotten a boost from low interest rates and tax cuts, business spending was still in the doldrums, a key reason growth has remained sluggish.

It was a drop in business spending that led the economy into recession last year. *Reuters*

Decision to enlarge EU still faces hurdles

BRUSSELS—The European Commission's recommendation that 10 candidate nations be allowed to join the EU in 2004 was widely welcomed, but problems loomed on the outside, from Turkey, and on the inside, from Irish voters.

Thirteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the EU's executive arm gave the nod Wednesday to a reshaping of the 15-member bloc that will take it up to the borders of Russia.

The commission, in detailed assessment reports on the candidate countries, recommended the entry of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The EU candidate countries all welcomed their "entry ticket" to the European Union but conceded they still had work to do.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called the commission's ruling "an outstanding decision, fair and reasonable. Germany will obviously support it."

Turkey however reacted bitterly to Brussels' failure to set a date for starting membership talks and warned that relations between Turkey and the European Union could suffer.

The European Commission recommended that Cyprus join the European Union in 2004 with or without a settlement between the divided island's Greek and Turkish communities.

"If such a disappointment came about, it will inevitably have a negative impact on other aspects of Turkey-EU relations, regardless of who is governing Turkey," Turkish Foreign Minister Sukru Sina Gurel told reporters.

He stressed that Turkey would reject any proposal other than an offer to start accession talks in 2003.

There was also disappointment in Washington, which has been quietly pressing numerous EU members on Turkey's behalf, citing its key role in the Nato military alliance and as a Western-leaning, secular Muslim state. *AFP*

Ford Co. may need to cut costs deeper

DETROIT—Ford Motor Co. may soon be forced into drastic cost cutting, beyond anything contemplated in its multiyear restructuring plan in January, as its financing costs rise and auto sales possibly head for a sharp decline.

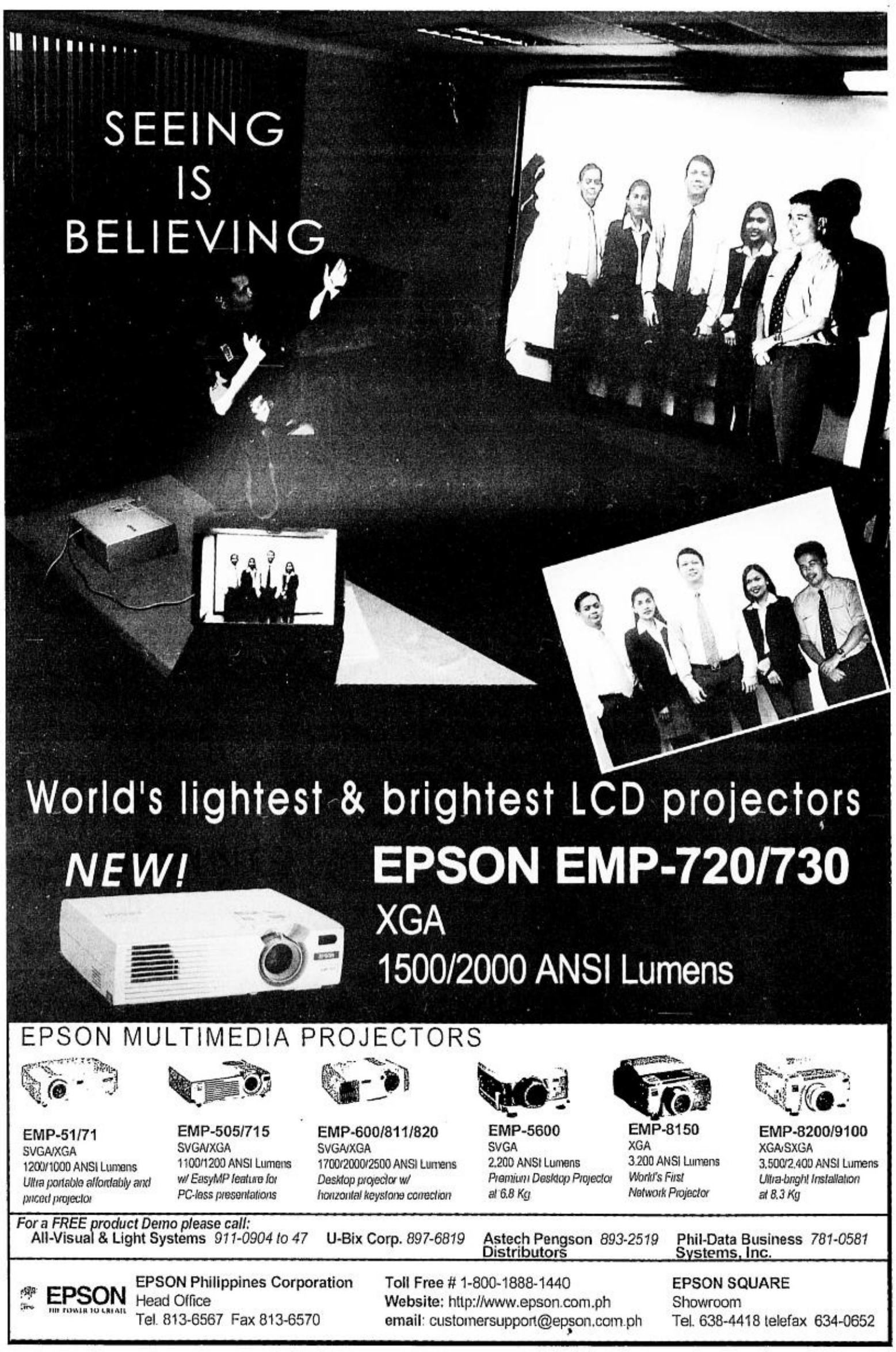
Forecasts of a falloff in US vehicle sales and production next year battered shares of automakers worldwide on Wednesday, but Ford, which lost $5.45 billion last year, suffered the most.

Ford's shares fell 7.4 percent to lows last seen in 1991, capping a 27-percent plunge in October alone, as investors fed on a gloom-and-doom scenario that the United States is veering into a double-dip recession that could see consumer demand crater.

"People aren't concerned about short-term profitability, short-term strength, they're looking for a collapse in automotive demand," said Scott Hill, an analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein.

"In that scenario you could get to further restructuring, even talk about the basic viability of the firm and bankruptcy, and that's what has really got the markets in a mess," he said.

All automakers would likely "struggle massively" if the US economy tanks and sales collapse, Hill said. But he said Ford, the world's No. 2 automaker, was especially vulnerable because of its weak lineup of new cars and trucks compared with fresh offerings from General Motors Corp. and other rivals. *Reuters*



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Quezon City:			
Vacant Lot, Bonifacio St., Veterans Village Area I, Tandang Sora		400.00	1,166,400.00
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Mandaluyong City:			
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Valenzuela City:			
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The estate of the deceased ANGELA SONGCO VDA DE ISIP & RICARDO S ISIP has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs under Doc No. 1 Page No. 94 Series of 2002 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Daniel Balanoba.
PDI- October 4, 11 & 18, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **EUFRECINA C. CLERIGO** was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc#251; Page 52; Book XIV; Series of 2002 of Not. Public Glen C. Manahan of QC.
(PDI-Sept. 27, Oct. 4 & 11, 2002)

Notice is given that the estate of the late JOSE CAMARA PASTORES was extrajudicially by his heirs as per Doc # 1254; Page # 251; Book VI; Series of 1999 before Notary Public Laura Irynn May O. Padua of Quezon City.
PDI-Sept 27, Oct 4 & 11, 2002

Notice is given that the estate of the late spouses Arsenio & Juanita Jocson was extrajudicially settled by heirs per Doc.# 89123, Page# 103, Book 1, Series 2001 under Notary Public Tami M. Chan of San Francisco CAL., U.S.A. Consul, J. Eduardo Malaya
(PDI-Oct. 4, 11 & 18, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late spouses EDUARDO R. MAGAY SR. and FELISA MAGAY has been settled Extrajudicially by their heirs per Doc.#112, Page#23, Book #III, Series of 2002 by Notary Public Federico T. Macabangun of Olongapo City
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All applicants must be 35 to 45 years old; male; preferably knows how to speak Mandarin; preferably with experience in the Air Conditioning or its related Industry.
Work Place: Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Qualified and interested applicants may send their resumé with their NBI clearance, Birth Certificate and Employment Certificate to: **DONALD R. RANADA (Personnel) Taiwan Hitachi (Subic) Inc.** # 1-A Binictican Drive SBP-II SBFZ Tel: 047-2521533 or 0917-4969679

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Call 933-6385 Noli/Angel, office hours For appointment & fax of resumé

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-22

Opening Date: October 18, 2002 - 9:00 AM
E-Bidding Date: October 25, 2002 - 9:00 AM

2002-22-01 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS & HARDWARE (Fascia Board, Lumber, Stainless Steel Sheet, Paint, Tinting Color, Sealent, Door Knob, Gate Valve, Faucet, Tank Fitting Set, Bulb, Fluorescent Fixtures, etc.)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **October 3, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable and presentation of **TIN/supplier's number (DCE).**

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.** For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **October 14, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Oct. 3 & 11, 2002)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

BANGKO SA LUPA NG PILIPINAS
Quezon Ave., Extn. Cor Raymund Jeffrey Rd., Pala-o, Iligan City
Tel. No.: (063) 221-3444, 492-1009, Fax No. (063) 516-727

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Land Bank of the Philippines, Iligan Branch, Iligan City** not later than **November 5, 2002,** Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
A 69,098 sq.m. agri/eco-tourism land (mountain resort) covered by 6 TCTs situated at Taytay, Ditucalan, Iligan City with the following improvements: **1-Main & Upper Clubhouse** **2-Lower Clubhouse** **5-Kulintang Cottages** **4-Agus Bahay Buildings** **2-Swimming Pools** **1-Elevated Water Tank** **Detached Kitchen/Bodega** **1&2/Servant's Quarter** **2-Function Buildings within Hotel Village** **2-Bahay Sarunay within Hotel Village** **3-Row Houses** **Souvenir shop/Admin. Bldg./Info.Bldg.**	**P 40,740,000.00**

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Head, Iligan Lending Center, Land Bank of the Philippines, Quezon Ave. Extn., Pala-o, Iligan City, Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of properties shall be **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"**. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

RENE Q. GALLO
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL HEAD
REGION 10

(PDI--Oct. 7, 9 & 11, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-23

Pre-bid Conference : October 25, 2002 - 2:00 P.M.
Opening Date : November 11, 2002 - 9:00 A.M
E-Bidding Date : November 22, 2002 - 2:00 A.M.

2002-23 JOB ORDER: Installation and Supply of Labor in Fire Suppression System at Storage Bldg. 1st and 2nd Floors, NPC-OBC.

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **October 11-23, 2002** at the Accreditation, Bidding and IT Services, Procurement Division, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable and presentation of TIN/supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.** For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **October 23, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

PBAC-BIDDING FOR THE INSTALLATION & SUPPLY OF LABOR IN FIRE SUPRESSION SYSTEM AT STORAGE BLDG. 1st & 2nd FLOORS, NPC-OBC
NPC-OBC (Head Office), Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Oct. 11 & 18, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the ad of Department of Trade & Industry Re: Invitation to Qualify for Eligibility and Bid for Industry Health Care Program, published in this paper October 5, 2002, bid period **should have been January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003.**

Our Apologies

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Procurement Service (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various IT Equipment with Local Area Network requirements of DSWD Regions III and VII. The approved budget for the contract is P 2,500,000.00 per region

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on the following dates and venues:

1. For DSWD Region III Requirements
   October 25, 2002 - PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila
2. For DSWD Region VII Requirements
   October 28, 2002 - Department of Budget and Management R-VII, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

The bid documents shall be available starting **October 11, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per Bid Document at the following offices:

For DSWD Region III Requirements:
1. Purchasing Division, Procurement Service, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila

For DSWD Region VII Requirements:
2. DBM - Region VII, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

The bidders for the Region III Requirements shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned Manila address while the bidders for the Region VII Requirements shall submit their envelopes at the above address in Cebu City.

Bidders are required to submit ISO 9001 or ISO 9002 certification from manufacturing facility.

Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **November 12, 2002** at 9:30 A.M.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at Telephone Nos. (02) 563-9374 or 563-9402 or DBM Region VII at Telephone Nos. (032) 2561962 or (032) 256-1964.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--Oct. 11 & 18, 2002)

SIGRA SERVICES, INC.
License No.IV-08-9-11
Private Employment Agency

This is to announce that Engr. **IRINEO A. BLANCO, Jr.** VP-Operations is the authorized representative of SIGRA Services, Inc., a local private employment agency.

ERRATUM

In the ad of the **Department of Transportation and Communication** Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC) published in this paper October 8, 2002 logo should have been:

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Instead of Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SELECTED AIRPORT (TRUNKLINE) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC) as printed.

OUR APOLOGIES

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in LUZON

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Mr. Rey Eliaten
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Tel No (074)-442-8176
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Balangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ma. Wilma C. Dayrit
RVC Newsstand 7 P Burgos Street, Balangas City
Tel No (043) 723-4176
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ma. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 40 D Silang Street, Balangas City
Tel Nos (043) 723-0016/(043) 960-8042
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Telefax (044)933 1214 EasyCall 141-287284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
253 Rizal I Tangan Balwag, Bulacan
Tel No (044) 760 1290
Office : Cara Communications
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Bartera St Pulilan Balwag Bulacan
Cabanatuan City
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Mr. Noel Cabanero
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St. Jude Village San Fernando Pampanga
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Gapao Building Dolores Hamalio
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Tel (045) 961-3787, e-mail cherwin@pamp pworld net ph
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INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

On the nose

Q. Is there a right way of blowing one's nose?

A. Ear, nose and throat specialists say the safest way to blow your nose is to clear one nostril at a time—pressing gently on one side while blowing out through the other. Applying pressure when blowing your nose is dangerous: it may rupture an eardrum or send bacteria into the ears or sinus cavities. If your nose is congested, clear it regularly before mucus has a chance to build up.

New Game. Kleenex. The well-known make of tissue paper has a name that denotes its purpose: to *clean* and to take the dirt out (Latin *ex*). Today we use it as a disposable handkerchief, but that was not its original purpose as conceived by its manufacturer, Kimberly-Clark, following World War I. Named Kleenex Kerchiefs, the 'Sanitary Cold Cream Remover' was promoted as a disposable substitute for cloth facial towels, a 'scientific way' to remove rouge, foundation, powder, and lipstick. But in 1919, men questioned why it was not promoted as a disposable handkerchief, and wives complained that husbands were blowing their noses in their cold-cream Kerchiefs. When the pop-up tissue box was invented two years later, the trade name Kleenex was on its way to becoming a generic term for tissue paper.

Past Forward. This day in 1919: The first airline in-flight meals were served on board a Handley-Page Transport flight and took the form of pre-packed lunch boxes offered on the airline's London-Paris route. The meals weren't free—they cost 3 British shillings (28 US cents) each.

WORD WATCH

Kahon : from the Spanish *cajon*, 'large box, bin.'

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We, The Management and Staff
of
PhilAdh
PHILIPPINE ADHESIVES, INC.
announce with deep sorrow the demise of

BENIGNO L. ZIALCITA JR.

who passed away on October 8, 2002 at the age of 88.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the North Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We, The Management and Staff
of
PETROCHEM
PHILIPPINE PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS, INC.
announce with deep sorrow the demise of our
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

BENIGNO L. ZIALCITA JR.

who passed away on October 8, 2002 at the age of 88.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the North Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

OUR BELOVED MISTAH

P/SSUPT ARNULFO N. ESPIRITU (DSC) PNP

PMA MASIKAP CLASS 1977

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 6, 2002 at the age of 49.

Survived by his wife **Nikki**; daughters **Cristina**, **Anna** and **Lee Ann**, and son **Robert**.

His body lies in state at Multi Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Necrological services will be on Friday, October 11, 2002, 7:00 PM at Multi Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002, 12:00 PM at Himlayang Pilipino.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

JESUS DIZON SALAMAT

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 9, 2002 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **Corazon Ablaza**; children **Rosalie** and **Ronald Allan**; brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 13, 2002 at Hagonoy Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the 10th Death Anniversary of

BENITO COO BU PENG

who joined his Creator on October 11, 1992

His wife **Josefa**; children **Edgar** (†) and **Zeny**, **Emmeline**, **Evangeline** and **Arthur**, **Edwin** and **Anna**, **Eveline** and **Hero**; and grandchildren, **Juliet**, **AJ**, **Janine**, **Richard**, **Philipp**, **Alexis**, **Voltaire**, **Job**, **Nicolle**, **Audrey**, **Erika**, **Hillary** and **Huxley** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Loving Memory

JAIME A. SAN JUAN

October 16, 1951 – October 11, 1991
City of Tanauan, Province of Batangas

His wife **Luz Uy San Juan**; children **Jamaica** and **Jussein San Juan**; son-in-law **Major Ruel Esparas**; daughter-in-law **Vanessa Sumague**; granddaughters **Angel** and **Jill**; grandsons **Jameson** and **Jaime Florentino** would like to share our deepest gratitude with those who have continually prayed for our dearest JIMMY's eternal happiness.

Please join us in love and prayer as we observe the 12th year reunion of our dearest JIMMY's with the Lord today, October 11, 2002 at the following churches:

Church of St. John the Evangelist, *Tanauan, Batangas* ..... 6:15 AM
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, *Sto. Tomas, Batangas* ..... 5:45 AM
St. John the Baptist Church, *Calamba, Laguna* ..... 5:30 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, *Forbes Park, Makati* ..... 6:15 AM
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City* ..... 6:30 AM
Parokya ng Immaculada Concepcion, *Antipolo, Rizal* ..... 8:00 AM
St. Martin of Tours Parish, Basilica of Taal, *Taal, Batangas* ..... 5:30 AM
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, *(Our Lady of EDSA)* ..... 6:30 AM
Chapel of Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace, *Lipa City* ..... 6:00 AM
St. John Parish, *San Jose, Batangas* ..... 5:30 AM
Adoration Convent of Divine Mercy, *Pink Sisters, Tagaytay City* ..... 6:30 AM
Parish of St. James the Great, ... 6:20 AM
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City
Incarnation Catholic Church, *1001 N. Brand Boulevard Glendale, CA* 6:00 AM
Holy Family Catholic Church, *209 E. Lomita Avenue Glendale, CA* 8:00 AM
Don Bosco Seminary Chapel, *Canlubang, Laguna* ..... 6:00 AM
St. Joseph Parish Chapel, ... 6:00 PM
Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna
St. Benedict Catholic Church, ... 7:45 PM
8110 Jewel Lake Road Anchorage, Alaska, USA
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, ... 12:00 PM
2901 Huffman Road, Anchorage, Alaska, USA
Holy Family Cathedral, ... 6:00 AM
800W 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, USA
St. Ann Church, ... 7:45 AM
2305 Riverdale Avenue, Los Angeles, California, USA

We, The Management and Staff
of
SUDECO
SUBIC BAY DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CORP.
announce with deep sorrow the demise of our
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

BENIGNO L. ZIALCITA JR.

who passed away on October 8, 2002 at the age of 88.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the North Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CORNELIO "JUN" A. KITANE JR.

Born: December 22, 1951 - Died: October 9, 2002

His loving wife **Helen**; daughters **Pamela**, **Carmina** and **Katrina**; his father **Cornelio Sr.**; his brothers and sisters and other relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will be flown from Dumaguete City and will lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels at Guadalupe, Makati City, on Thursday, October 10, 2002.

Schedule of cremation (time, date and location) will be announced later.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

APOLONIA "Nana Poñing" LEAÑO GENUINO

Joined her Creator on the 8th of October 2002 at the age of 86.

Her beloved husband **Dr. Leonardo Rios Genuino**; her loving children **Oscar**, **Fr. Ollie**, **Maricora** & **Dr. Jerry**; her daughters-in-law, son-in-law, her brother **Dr. Frank** and grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 32 Gov. Luis Ferrer Avenue, General Trias, Cavite.

Interment will be on October 17, 2002 at the Catholic Cemetery after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, General Trias, Cavite at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in Me, even though he dies he will live."

John 11:25

The Administration, Faculty, Employees, and Students of the

UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO

Extend their deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences to the family of

Dr. Fernando "Tatay" G. Bautista

(March 10, 1908 - October 9, 2002)

Grand Patriarch, Founder and President Emeritus of the University of Baguio, Great Kaaufuan as adopted son of the Province of Benguet who died in the grace of the Lord

Joining his loving wife **ROSA**, beloved sons **FER**, **JOJO** and daughter **GENE**, leaving behind his second wife **ANCHING**, his sons and daughter, son-in-law and daughters-in-law,

MILA (wife of **FER** †), children: **Lala** & **JC**, **Gretel** and **Mel**, **Bonggoy**, **Paolo**
grandchildren: **Bianca**, **Migo**, **Kayla**, **Ethan**, **Blake**

BNN & **MALU**, children: **Ynna** & **Timmy** †, **Abu Bnn** & **Val**, **Zorba Bnn** & **Michelle Ada Denise**, **Ristalle**,
grandchildren: **Nino**, **Nikki**, **Trixie**, **Adlenne**, **Adri**, **Zoe**, **Zefan**

REY & **DEBB**, children: **Peter Rey** & **Joy**, **Tintin**, **Jaybee** & **Gheni**, **Jenny**
grandchildren: **Walter**, **Reynaldo III**, **Bea**, **Anne Drew**, **Joelle**

DES & **AURING**, children: **Iggy** †, **Emmaling** & **Richard**, **Gems** & **Imay**, **Diego**, **Edmond**, **Gabby**, **Louie**,
grandchildren: **Stephen**, **Candice**, **Jeremy**

HERR & **LEONIE**, children: **Philip**, **Eleonor** & **Jjef**, **Javi**, **Raffy**, **Biju**, **Mario**,
grandchildren: **Justine**, **Luis**

GIL & **LILIA**, children: **Lakan-asa**, **Talisuyo**, **Matimyas**, **Paraiso**, **Magiting**, **Maginoo**, **Kalayaan** †, **Busilak**, **Kabaitan**, **Matatag**, **Gatbunyi**, **Pananalig**

BUBUT (wife of **JOJO** †), children: **Christian** & **Judy Ann**, **Jozak** & **Trisha**, **Derek**, **Rina**, **Jobee**, **Justin**, **Corinne**,
grandchildren: **Chloe**, **Daniel**, **Zoe**, **Zach**, **Erica**, **Kyle**

LYNN & **HIBER**, children: **Khan-khan**, **Tenni**, **Dane**

We request the pious reader to pray for his soul.

Tatay Nanding's body lies in state at the UB HRM Mansion fronting the UB Nanay Rosa Building/AMS.
Interment will be on Tuesday, October 15, 2002, after a 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Baguio Cathedral.

BUSINESS

UTILITY VEHICLE, FINANCE UNIT

Toyota to expand operations in RP

TOYOTA Motor Corp. of Japan will pump in fresh capital in the Philippines to expand its assembly and parts-making factory in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and establish a financing arm to spur domestic sales.

Visiting Toyota president Fujio Cho said the Philippines would play an important role in Toyota's regional strategy even though the country has the smallest vehicle market among the Asean-4 assemblers, which include Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

"We will soon make an additional investment in Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and Toyota Autoparts Philippines. This investment is part of a huge project which is more ambitious than anything the Toyota has tackled before," Cho said.

Toyota is planning to build an international multipurpose vehicle patterned after its best-selling Toyota Tamaraw, the pioneering original Asian utility vehicle designed in the Philippines.

Cho said the new vehicle would be a core product in Asean with the Philippines at the heart of the project as a supplier of transmissions and other automotive components. The Philippines is bidding to become the supplier of transmissions of all Toyota vehicles sold worldwide. Toyota Philippines exports are expected to increase by 45 percent to $400 million in 2004 from $276 million last year.

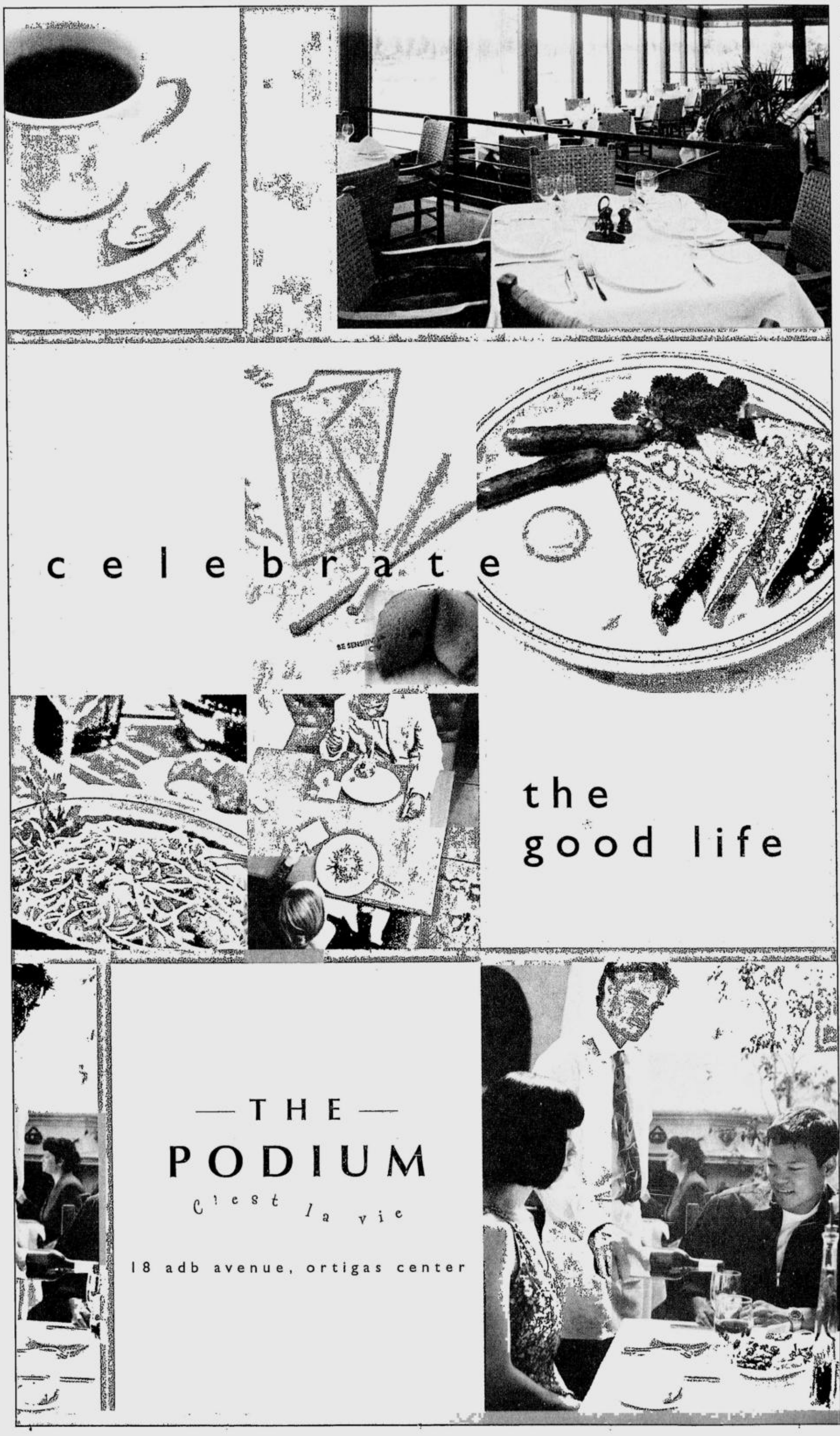
Aside from the export market, Toyota is also keen on cementing its dominant position in the local automotive industry with the establishment of a majority-owned financing arm.

Toyota and its partner, the Metrobank group, are investing at least P500 million for a 60-40 venture, Toyota Financial Services Philippines Corp. (TFSPC), which is aiming to corner an initial 5 percent of the total auto financing market.

TFSPC president Dexter Pasion said the company would engage Toyota's biggest financiers, Metrobank and Philippine Savings Bank, in a "friendly competition."

"Our advantage is really our focus on Toyota products. We are planning to provide not only retail lending for new car buyers but also wholesale loans for dealers' inventory and lease-car services," Pasion said.

Since affordable financing is a key factor in vehicle sales, Toyota is expected to further boost its 30-percent share of the market with the start of TFSPH.



More wells planned in Malampaya

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV, operator of the Malampaya natural gas project, yesterday said the venture's consortium was considering to increase the number of gas production wells from five to nine.

Spex and Texaco Philippines own a 45-percent stake each in Malampaya while PNOC Exploration Corp. holds the remaining 10 percent.

Facundo Roco, spokesperson for Spex, said in a telephone interview that the firms' service contract allowed as many as nine production wells, all of which they had planned to put up from the beginning.

"This is one of the reasons why we are continuing seismic surveys of the Malampaya area," Roco said.

The official added that the surveying also aimed to determine whether the Malampaya gas reservoir contained more than the currently proven reserve of 2.6 trillion cubic feet.

Asked about an earlier report that the consortium was planning to drill two exploratory wells in other prospects within its service area, Roco said he had no personal knowledge of the matter.

"What I know is that we are continually surveying the Malampaya area to review existing data and hopefully know more about it," he said.

Early this week, an industry source privy to the matter said the consortium was planning to infuse more capital to fund exploration of prospects near the Malampaya oil and gas fields.

The source, who asked not to be named, said the consortium was firming up a plan to drill two wells but that this was "all preliminary."

He did not say how much additional funds were being considered nor how much an exploratory well would cost.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that Service Contract No. 38 covers a 158,526-hectare area in Northwest Palawan.

Mirant seen ready with IPO by mid-2003

MIRANT Philippines Inc., the country's biggest independent power producer, said yesterday that its initial public offering could be expected between mid-2003 and early 2004.

But Edgardo Bautista, Mirant Philippines president and chief executive officer, said in an interview the IPO would go ahead only if "lots of preparations" had been accomplished.

Bautista said the energy firm had always been preparing for public listing.

"There are a lot of things to do and it is a long process," he said. "If we see that we cannot meet the target next year, (the IPO) would have to be done the following year."

Bautista said Mirant was planning to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange 10-15 percent of the company's shares.

Also, Bautista said Mirant expected its earnings to be slightly lower at end-2002 compared to that of the previous year because of present economic conditions. He did not provide details.

Mirant Philippines reported a net income of about P8.6 billion in 2000, the biggest for any corporation in the country that year.

In an earlier interview, Mirant Philippines vice president Paul Flake said an IPO had always been part of the firm's business plans.

Flake said the firm might do the IPO within the year if the necessary preparations were done, but he also noted that it took other companies years to realize an IPO.

In February, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said Mirant's IPO would be timely this year given that it had been the biggest net earner among local companies.

"This could be one of the largest listing in the local stock exchange this year," the official added.

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Six marketing principles for SMEs to live by

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

GONE are the days when marketing was relegated as back-end support to selling activities. Marketing today is no longer treated as a cost center nor something to be dispensed with but is a demand creator.

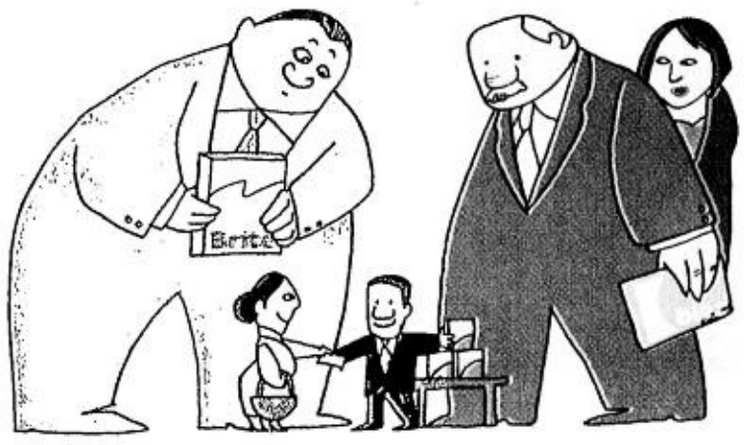
Today, many businesses recognize marketing for its real role in creating market demand. Whether one's business is small, medium or large, the same important principles of marketing apply.

Principle One. Identify your target market. Because small to medium sized businesses do not have the budgets of multinational companies, it is important for them to narrow down the scope of their markets to that of which they can serve best. Immediately targeting national distribution with very little budgets may jeopardize the success of the product. Concentrating the company's resources however small, on areas which it can best serve maximizes its use rather than spreading it thinly.

Principle Two. Define your differentiating positioning and stay with it. Create a differentiation in the minds of consumers but be certain to substantiate it. Because of a slowdown in the economy, consumers are careful with their money and are certain to look for alternatives. This can be an opportunity as an SME introduces a differentiating product or service. While consumers are willing to try new brands, they must be encouraged to stay on with the brand through a consistent, delightful experience.

Principle Three. Invest in marketing research and use the findings wisely.

The close involvement of owners of SMEs with their businesses makes them sometimes forget the consumers point of view. For example, it is not uncommon for owners to assume that consumers think the same way as they do about their product or service. Only to be surprised after validating through consumer market research that it is often not the case. Entrepreneurs must realize that consumer market research becomes an important tool for understanding one's target market, finding out whether their market indeed knows about the product, what exactly do they know about it, is the consumer's knowledge of the product or service positive or negative, etc.



When used wisely, marketing research is an efficient tool for discovering new benefits about your product or service which can be the basis even for positioning an extension.

Principle Four. Invest in marketing communications. SME owners often make investments in the facilities or backroom operations and absolutely neglect to set aside an adequate budget for marketing communications. This can only be explained by the fact that investments in plant facilities are tangible and are considered as assets reflected in balance sheets while the benefits reaped from marketing communications are intangible.

Moreover, still prevalent is the old business way of thinking that a company with a good product can find its way into the consciousness of the general public and therefore can always drive the sales sans advertising. Unfortunately, because of product proliferation nowadays and without efficient marketing communications, consumers are not likely to be familiar with a product or service without marketing support. Further, the use of effective marketing communications is like having several sales people spreading the word about the goodness of the product. Without the proper use of communications, there is very limited awareness among the target market thereby restricting potential huge demand for a product or service.

Principle Five. Integrate your marketing activities. It is not enough to simply advertise nor to publicize or do special events and other marketing activities. There must be a framework and reason for all the marketing efforts, one of which is grounded on the product or service positioning. Despite minimal budgets, market presence can be achieved effectively if all the marketing activities are integrated along the same line of positioning and differentiation.

Principle Six. Get the right, experienced marketing people to do the job for you. One of the greatest limitations faced by SMEs is the substantial cost of immediately setting up a marketing department and the

SIX/ C2

Aussie firm aims to sell more via counter clerks

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOST Filipinos do not know the first thing about what to buy when they want to improve their home or build their dream house, so they rely on their neighborhood hardware or lumber store clerk to point them in the right direction.

It is for this reason that James Hardie Philippines, maker of the HardiFlex fiber cement boards, has adopted a strategy that directly targets the counter clerks or the people manning the hardware or lumber stores.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Under James Hardie's program, professional trainers are hired and then sent out to the different provinces to teach these hardware clerks about the benefits of the HardiFlex fiber cement board as a substitute for the common plywood.

Fiber cement is reputedly the fastest growing building material in the world. It is a composite building and construction material made from sand, cement and cellulose fiber. It is used extensively as a lining material in residential and commercial construction.

The clerks are trained to inform potential customers about these benefits and the long-term cost advantage of using HardiFlex. They are also taught how to handle customer complaints.

After the training, James Hardie sends out people to track down the sales of these hardware stores and then gives incentives to those who were able to post significant sales growth within a given period.

"We give them incentives and prizes, simples ones like T-shirts but also bigger prizes such as a DVD player," says James Hardie president John Balass.

Balass says James Hardie rolled out the program two years ago and since then has trained over 1,000 clerks.

"It has been a very good program because it is something different and it helps the customers in terms of better understanding our product," Balass adds.

James Hardie adopted the counter clerk program as research showed that HardiFlex and other fiber cement products were not easily bought at the store shelves unless the customers were informed about its benefits.

With the counter clerk program in place, James Hardie made significant headway in winning the support and goodwill of counter clerks, which in turn influences end-users to pick up a HardiFlex product.

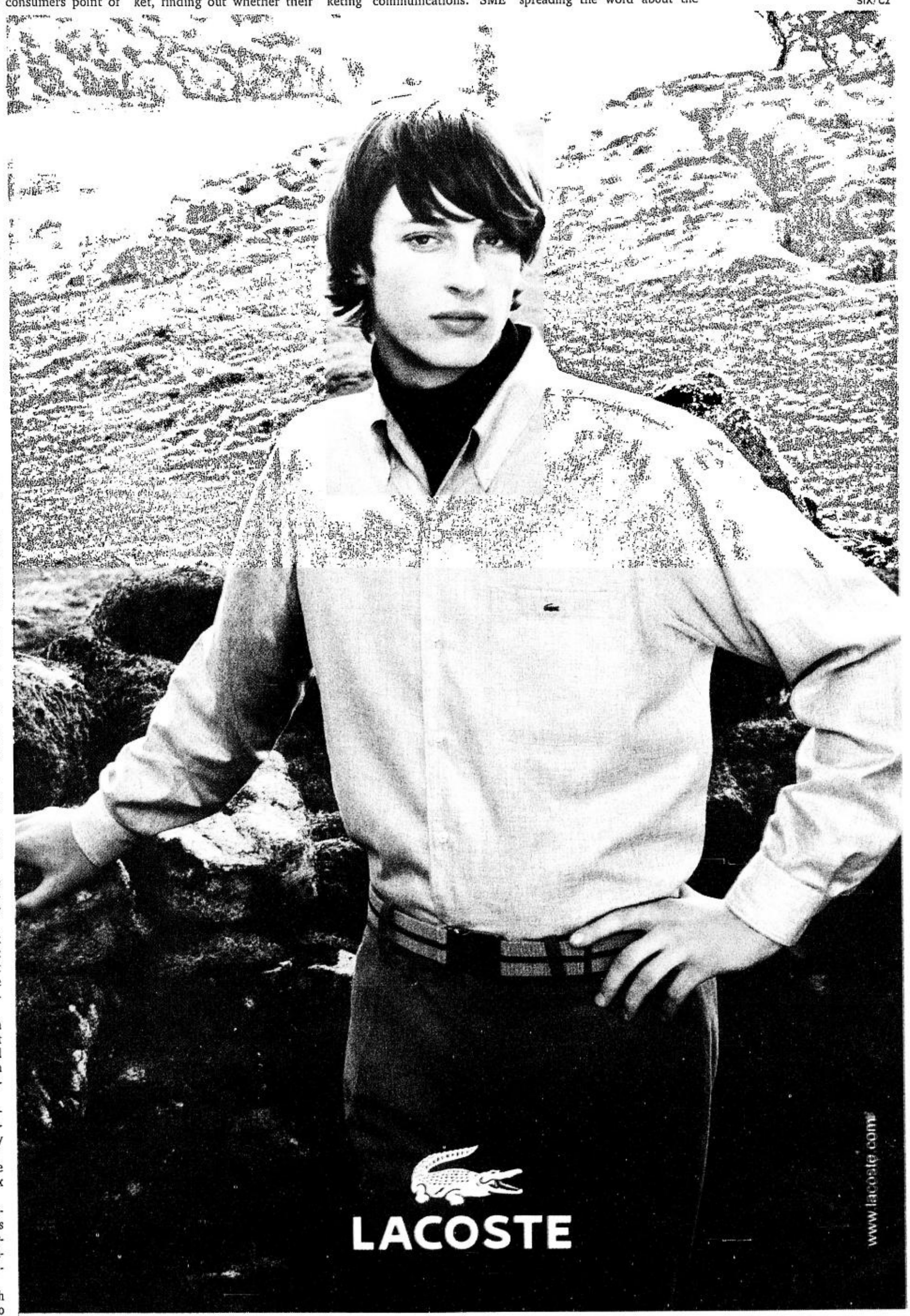
The company also noticed increased plywood substitution at the retail level and increased retail sales of HardiFlex, especially the HardiFlex lite variant.

HardiFlex lite was James Hardie's response to the market demand for a lighter HardiFlex for ceiling installation.

The counter clerk program is complemented by other marketing efforts such as tri-media advertising and extensive merchandising such as posters, transport stickers, brochures and large signs at the points-of-sale.

James Hardie also invests in tie-ups with architects and contractors' associations to help them become better informed about the competitive advantage of fiber cement over ordinary plywood.

AUSSIE/ C0



AYALA CENTER, CEBU · CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) · GREENBELT MALL · ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL)
RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · RUSTAN'S CUBAO · RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA

Decades-old businesses talk of 'Slippers City'

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

FROM the usual "pambahay" to chic "panlakad" wear, the lowly *tsinelas* has proved to be the most comfortable and practical footwear of all time.

Liliw, Laguna, has made a mark in manufacturing quality and low-priced footwear for many years now, particularly its durable "tsinelas" or slippers.

Scores of stores selling slippers, step-ins, sandals, and shoes line up the Gat Tayaw Street of this town. Not to mention a few others located in nearby streets, where owners usually live atop their footwear outlets.

Badong Footwear and Socialite Footwear are two of the well-known footwear producers in Liliw.

Salvador "Badong" Monteiro started his shoe business in 1962. This was after years of working as a shoemaker himself in a local shoe store.

His broad experience and training prompted him to start his own company with an initial capital of P5,000.

Getting materials was not so much of a problem at that time since most of his workers bring their own tools such as scissors.

"You only need a table and a roof to house your factory," Badong stresses, which in his case was his backyard.

Export

Most of his initial products were made for export to the United States, Australia and Puerto Rico and only a few were for local customers.

Badong shares that a pair of slippers cost P1.50 to P2 that time.

In 1980, after having established the name that spells quality footwear, Badong concentrated on the local market and opened his store in the same place where Dimasira, the town's first famed slippers brand, used to stand. Ironically, the Dimasira shoe store did not last long.

Emma Camello of Socialite Footwear, on the other hand, is a third generation owner of Socialite's which started business in the 1950s. She, however, started operating it in the 1970s.

Emma is also a veteran footwear producer having operated two stores, Emma's and Ingrid's Footwear, before taking charge of what is now known as Socialite Ingrid Footwear, Ingrid being her daughter's name.

Emma says her business has also carved a name in the shoemaking industry and has since become "our bread and butter so to speak."

Design

Both Badong and Emma note that the design of their slippers, which they often both do themselves, is one of the reasons customers like their products. Badong also travels abroad with his family to keep up to date with the latest trends in footwear fashion.

Emma adds that magazines are also a good source of ideas for their patterns not to mention the local's natural artistry in executing the designs.

Designs vary every week, Badong says, but others last for a year or so, especially if it's saleable. He explains that slippers usually come in three styles:

BADONG Monteiro (top) and Emma Camello (right) with their wares

straps, 'x'-styled, and thongs. Only the designs, colors and materials used vary.

But just like any other business, the economic crisis also affected the industry.

Badong stresses, however, that when crisis comes, patience plays a big role in learning to adjust to the situation.

"You have to sacrifice . . . and make products that fit your market, *kung ano lang ang kayang bilhin ng* buying public," Badong says.

Materials

Materials can be leather, leatherette, or fabric while soles are usually made of rubber or wood.

Badong claims that most of the raw materials are locally sourced while other accessories are imported.

All their customers are walk-in patrons. A huge number buy in bulk for re-selling, others for own use while some buy the products as *pasalubong*.

Slippers have fixed prices, but discounts are given for volume purchases. Slippers cost about P35-P65 while stylish step-ins cost from P150 to less than a thousand, Badong declares.

Emma also adds that the "3 for P100" stuff are always a hit.

Through the years, Socialite's and Badong's products have been selling like hotcakes and have gained customers from different places from all walks of life most often through word of mouth.

"Those who have been here would spread the news about Liliw slippers and so others would come and buy," Emma reveals, adding that they also join bazaars and trade exhibits in Manila where the response from customers was overwhelming.

Festival

Socialite's was even visited by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the first ever Tsinelas Festival last April, which showcased the town's footwear craftsmanship.

Emma shares that the President was very impressed by the town's slippers industry. The President revealed that she wore a *tsinelas* made from Liliw in a photograph seen in the front pages of major dailies during her visit to a Metro Manila market.

Although both stores carry shoes and bags, it's the slippers and step-ins that they are most known for.

Both Badong and Emma man the store themselves every day, seven days a week excluding Christmas Day when, Badong says, the only day his store closes. They both agree that being at their stores is advantageous because they can observe what the customers want and they get the chance to chat and listen to the clients' suggestions and positive remarks about their wares.

Badong says he notices that most customers are a little "conservative" in their choices.

"The lower the soles, the more saleable they become," he observes. This, he says, only proves that clients look for something that is "wearable" yet trendy.

Asked what advice can he give to those who want to put up a business, Badong has this to say: "First and foremost, you should know the ins and outs of the business, (this having worked well for him as he started as a shoe worker himself) also, be artistic ... any business should have a touch of art in it," he adds.

Peak seasons

Christmas and summertime are peak seasons for this business although a lot of customers also visit the outlets even during off-season. "Back-to-school" time, Emma adds, also bring in more customers.

More stores are expected to open in Liliw and Emma takes this as a good sign for the business.

"Actually, I even encourage them ... because the more stores, the better because more customers will come and the more the Liliw slippers industry will boom," says this lady who dreams that someday Liliw will become a sort of "slippers city" of Laguna.

So what makes Liliw slippers click? Badong and Emma sum it up: durable, affordable and fashionable.

Taxpayer's remedy: DOF review of BIR rulings

By Suzette A. Celicious
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE POWER to interpret the provisions of the Tax Code and other tax laws is with the commissioner of Internal Revenue, subject to review by the finance secretary.

The interpretation of tax laws is normally done through BIR rulings issued by the commissioner or by those acting in his behalf, such as the deputy commissioner for legal and inspection group, assistant commissioner for legal service, or the regional directors.

In 1999, the DOF issued DO No. 5-99 to implement Section 4 of the Tax Code. Under DO No. 5-99, no ruling or issuance by the BIR shall take effect unless it has been reviewed by the secretary. Procedurally, the BIR will prepare the draft of the ruling or issuance and this is then forwarded to the secretary for his review.

Revenue Administrative Order No. 1-99 (RAO No. 1-99) was then issued to implement the provisions of DO No. 5-99. BIR rulings under RAO No. 1-99 were classified as rulings of first impression or with established precedents.

Rulings of first impression refer to the commissioner's rulings, opinions and interpretations of Tax Code provisions and other tax laws without established precedent, and issued in response to a specific request for ruling filed by a taxpayer with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The term includes reversal, modification or revocation of any existing ruling. These types of rulings are valid only upon review and approval by the secretary.

Rulings with precedents

On the other hand, rulings with established precedents refer to mere reiteration of previous rulings, opinions and interpretations of the commissioner, as delegated to duly authorized internal revenue officers (i.e., deputy commissioner, legal and inspection group; assistant commissioner, legal service; regional directors) that are issued in response to a specific request for ruling filed by a taxpayer with the BIR.

These types of rulings are valid unless revoked by the secretary. On Oct. 11, 2001, DO No. 23-01 was issued by the DOF. It expressly repealed DO No. 5-99 and RAO No. 1-99 and introduced major changes, discussed as follows:

1. Validity of Rulings

Under DO No. 23-01, all rulings and issuances of the commissioner pertaining to the implementation and interpretation of the Tax Code and other tax laws are valid, unless revoked, reversed, modified, or superseded by the secretary. Unlike in DO No. 5-99, these rulings and issuances take effect upon issuance by the commissioner or by the duly delegated authority. They are, however, subject to review by the secretary of finance.

2. Active participation of the taxpayer

In order to seek the review power of the secretary, the taxpayer or his representative must file a request for review within 30 days from the date of receipt of the adverse ruling of the commissioner. Unlike in DO No. 5-99, where no action at all is required from the taxpayer, the present rule requires his active participation in order to protect his rights. Otherwise, the adverse ruling remains uncontested and valid.

3. Exhaustion of administrative remedies

The concept of exhaustion of administrative remedies is prescribed under DO No. 23-01. In cases of adverse rulings issued by the commissioner's delegatees (i.e., rulings with established precedents), the taxpayer shall first file a letter of reconsideration with the Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Legal Service (ACIR-LS), for rulings decided by the revenue regional directors, or with the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue for Legal and Inspection Group (DCIR-LIG), for rulings decided by the ACIR-LS, and duly addressed to the commissioner.

Only after the request for reconsideration has been resolved can the taxpayer seek the review of the ruling by the secretary. This remedy was not provided in DO No. 5-99.

Power of review

RAO No. 3-01, which implements DO No. 23-01, covers rulings issued by the commissioner or any of his alter egos. It also outlines the exercise of the power of review by the secretary and its procedures. This power of review is availed of in case of rulings that are adverse to the taxpayer.

Pursuant to RAO No. 23-01 and in accordance with Section 4 of the Tax Code, the secretary may affirm, revise, modify or set aside rulings and issuances of the BIR concerning the implementation and application of the Tax Code and other tax laws. This does not, however, cover the power to decide disputed assessments, refunds of internal revenue taxes, fees or other charges, penalties imposed in relation thereto, or other matters arising from the Tax Code or other laws administered by the BIR, which may be reviewed by the Court of Tax Appeals. Neither does it apply to rulings that are deemed void ab initio because they contradict revenue regulations, revenue memorandum orders, revenue memorandum rulings, and revenue memorandum circulars.

Adverse rulings

If the ruling requested is adverse or not favorable to the requesting taxpayer, he may seek the review of the ruling by the DOF within 30 days from the date of receipt of the adverse ruling of the commissioner.

In case of rulings of first impression, which shall be issued by the commissioner himself, the adverse decision is appealable directly to the secretary.

In case of rulings by the commissioner's delegatees, the taxpayer must exhaust administrative remedies within the BIR by filing a letter of reconsideration addressed to the commissioner, with the following offices:

a) Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Legal Service (ACIR-LS), in the case of adverse rulings decided by the revenue regional directors; or

b) Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue for Legal and Inspection Group (DCIR-LIG), in the case of adverse rulings decided by the ACIR-LS.

The letter for reconsideration must be filed within 15 days from receipt of the adverse ruling, before requesting for a review by the secretary. In all cases, only the final adverse decision of the commissioner can be brought to the DOF for review.

Affirmation, reversal or modification

The secretary may affirm, reverse or modify a ruling of the commissioner but he shall consider only the same set of facts presented to the BIR in the first instance.

In case of affirmation, the secretary may rely wholly on the reasons stated in the commissioner's ruling.

A reversal or modification of a ruling terminates its effectivity upon the earlier date of the receipt of written notice by the taxpayer or by the BIR. However, this is subject to Section 246 of the Tax Code, which provides that any revocation, modification or reversal of any of the rulings promulgated by the commissioner shall not be given retroactive application if the revocation, modification, or reversal will be prejudicial to the taxpayer. This is subject to the following exceptions:

a) Where the taxpayer deliberately misstates or omits material facts from his return or any document required of him by the BIR;

b) Where the facts subsequently gathered by the BIR are materially different from the facts on which the ruling is based; or

c) Where the taxpayer acted in bad faith.

Mandatory requirement

A taxpayer who receives an adverse ruling from the commissioner may, within 30 days, seek its review by the secretary, either by himself/itself or through his/its duly accredited tax agent or representative.

The request for review must be in writing and under oath, addressed to the secretary and filed with the revenue operations group of the DOF.

At the time of filing of the request for review, the taxpayer must submit a duplicate copy of the records on file with the BIR pertaining to his request, which must be authenticated and certified by the BIR.

These requirements are mandatory and failure to comply with any of the requirements is sufficient basis for the secretary to dismiss the request for review with prejudice.

Procedure of appeal

RAO No. 3-01 provides the following procedure on appeal to the secretary within 30 days upon receipt of the adverse ruling of the commissioner:

1. File with the Office of the Commissioner, for endorsement to the ACIR-LS, a copy of the request for review of the ruling.

2. Request from the ACIR-LS an authenticated and certified true copy of the complete docket or records on file.

3. Pay the certification fee to the authorized agent bank having jurisdiction over the taxpayer or the place of business of the taxpayer, using Payment Form 0605. The certification fee is P10 for every page of the complete records on file.

4. Present to the ACIR-LS the original copy of the official receipt that proves payment of the certification fee, and submit a photocopy to form part of the docket or records of the case;

5. Within five days from the date of payment of the certification fee, the ACIR-LS shall instruct the division chief of the law division or the international tax affairs division, as the case may be, for each and every page of the records of the case, sequentially numbered, to be photocopied, including a copy of the subject BIR ruling, and for the complete set to be stamped and signed by the concerned division chief to be an authentic and true copy of the original and complete records on file.

In the case of rulings made by the revenue regional directors and finally decided by the commissioner to be adverse to the taxpayer, the ACIR-LS shall certify and authenticate the duplicate copy of the records of the case;

6. The appropriate office shall also prepare the endorsement letter of the commissioner, which letter shall be signed by the assistant commissioner for legal service. In this regard, the ACIR-LS shall submit to the commissioner, copy furnished the DCIR-LIG, a monthly report of cases appealed and certifications made;

7. The authenticated and certified true copy of the docket or records of the case, including the endorsement thereof to the secretary, through the revenue operations group, shall be released to the holder of the original copy of the official receipt evidencing payment of the certification fee.

JAMES Hardie's new product, HardiePlank, is used in this house.

Aussie firm aims . . .

From page C1

These different marketing efforts have resulted in a 40-percent growth in the sale of James Hardie products despite the relatively flat construction market.

For its efforts, James Hardie was awarded the Business Promotion Award by the ANZ Bank Anzcham Business Awards 2002.

James Hardie got the award for "showing excellence in promoting and marketing an Australian or New Zealand product or service over the previous year."

Balass says he and his team have adopted the same approach to increase market awareness of its new product HardiPlank, a fiber cement external wall cladding material that combines the homey look of wood and the strength of concrete.

Balass says the planks that look like wood panels are very popular in markets such as the United States, growing by 25 percent over the last 10 years. James Hardie hopes to duplicate the product's success in the Philippines.

Six marketing principles for SMEs to live by

From page C1

hiring of skilled personnel knowledgeable in marketing from market analysis to product development to media implementation. Today, this is no longer such a huge barrier as SMEs on an interim basis, until they are ready to support a marketing department, can contract the services of a fee-based strategic marketing consultant. One caveat, though is to ascertain that the skills of the strategic marketing consultant is not limited only to paper recommendation but must extend to implementation as well. It is important therefore, to carefully scrutinize the consultant's expertise and curriculum vitae.

(The writer is a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)

Political scientist churns out beds of roses

ALTHOUGH she fancies fashioning a literal "bed of roses", floral artist Estrella Gutierrez says her journey both as an entrepreneur and as a craftswoman is far from being that.

But after years of making amazing floral arrangements for a distinct class of clients under the Pacific Blooms label, Gutierrez thinks the journey was well worth it.

"I guess if I had to share only one lesson that I have learned, it is that the process of making a bed of roses is very similar to life. Hold on to the rose and deal with the thorns on the wayside," Gutierrez says.

Inspite of the success of her first store (a Victorian house along Examiner Street in Quezon City), it took Gutierrez 12 years before opening a branch. Pacific Blooms specializes in exquisitely arranged silk flowers. It also carries imported and local fresh flowers especially for weddings. Silk flower arrangements go from a couple of thousands to six-digit figures, depending on the materials and the complexity of design.

Wedding arrangements, on the other hand, have more flexible rates. A careful assessment of the market and an observation of the Filipino's improving taste in lifestyle made her decide to open her second outlet at the high end Podium mall in Mandaluyong City.

"I wanted to be prudent in expanding because I wanted to be sure what our very selected market is ready for. Our market goes for one-of-a-kind products done with impeccable quality, with quality service to boot. They do not mind the price as long as they get what they pay for, " Gutierrez explains.

Observation being her best tool both as an entrepreneur and as an artist, Gutierrez proved herself right when she opened the Podium recently. On the first week, all her merchandise, from the classic furniture down to the smallest twig and petal and scented candle, sold out. Expecting such a reaction, she made sure that she had enough stock to replenish her display.

GUTIERREZ

About a hundred clients are serviced in one day in just this branch and so far, she has 300 clients in her waiting list, all of whom are waiting for their Christmas arrangements to be delivered.

'Cloning' the artist

Gutierrez' love for floral arrangements dates back to her childhood when she helped her mother tend to the garden without being asked to. Notwithstanding her academic background (undergraduate and master's degrees in political science), Gutierrez eventually followed her heart to be a floral artist and enrolled herself at the Southern California School of Floral Design.

In 1990, she opened her first flower shop, a small space adjacent to a gasoline station in Quezon City. In 1996, the Examiner St. store became the showroom of bouquets, swags, Christmas trees, tablescapes and all other kinds of floral adornments that are unmistakably Pacific Blooms.

What has made Pacific Blooms a byword among the elite is the artistry that Gutierrez puts into every arrangement. Each Pacific Blooms creation is personally handcrafted by Gutierrez. This explains the reason why Pacific Blooms shuns brochures and portfolios which prospective clients can scan.

"Every arrangement is unique, there are no prototypes which my staff can just copy. Designs are

POLITICAL C5

The world's local bank lets you fly free, here and abroad --- via the Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC.

Now, the world's local bank has teamed up with Asia's first airline to make it easier for you to enjoy free local and international flights.

Use your card and get ready to take off!
With the new Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC, every time you shop, gas up or dine out, you earn Bonus Points that you can convert to Miles. Collect enough Miles and you get a free flight!

Earn FREE flights fast!
Every P45 you charge to your Mabuhay Miles Visa earns you 1 Mile. That's one of the lowest spend-to-Miles conversion rates in town. Just imagine how far a trip to the gas station can take you when you charge your gas purchases to your card. With a rate this low, you'll be flying for free here or abroad in no time.

Prepare to pile up the Miles.
Once you're a Mabuhay Miles Visa cardholder, you also become a member of Mabuhay Miles, PAL's frequent flyer program. So every time you fly PAL, you earn additional Miles on top of what you get by using your card to pay for your fare. Plus, you get *1,000 bonus Miles* when you first use your card. That brings you closer to flying FREE!

Apply now! Call 878-7878. Or visit www.hsbc.com.ph.

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Join the Mabuhay Miles Visa raffle promo and you can win a Business Class PAL Swingaround trip for 2!

Just get approved for the card between 1 September 2002 and 28 February 2003 to get a raffle number. You'll also earn a raffle number for every P500 you charge to the card during the promo period. The sooner you start using your card, the more chances you'll have of winning. Apply today! See flyers for more details.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Metrobank named bank of the year

METROBANK, the country's largest bank, recently bagged the coveted Bank of the Year 2002 award given by trusted global financial intelligence source the Banker Magazine.

The 75-year-old London-based publication of the Financial Times Group cited Metrobank as the most outstanding bank in the Philippines based on the criteria that reflect the latest financial results and performance data. In awarding ceremonies held at the Dorchester Hotel in London, the Banker cited Metrobank's "focus on asset and capital quality which has provided it with a strong resource base and enabled it to increase profits in a tough market" as its edge over other candidates.

Responding to the call of Bangko Sentral for capital strengthening, Metrobank—the first bank ever to do so—issued $100 million in subordinated debt, at the same time laid the groundwork for the setting up of an asset management vehicle that would effectively absorb its non-performing loans and reduce its non-performing loans ratio. The twin moves were designed to prepare the bank for the expected economic rebound.

Over the past year, the bank developed new and enhanced its line-up of products and services. It implemented its ATM interconnection with international ATM giant Cirrus-Maestro and launched its mobile banking facility in conjunction with the country's two leading cellular phone service companies—the only bank with such a dual tie-up. In addition, Metrobank enhanced its ATM and phone banking facilities allowing expanded features such as fund transfers and more bills payment options. More recently, it launched the metrobankdirect, its Internet banking facility.

Product innovations also contributed to the bank's significant success, in particular the US Dollar special savings account (Unisa) and the Fun Savers Club for children.

Metrobank's focus on asset and capital quality and stability also ensured efficient service delivery, banking convenience, and sufficient market coverage. Along this line, the bank targeted the retail market, particularly mortgage and vehicle financing, and subsequently consolidated the supervision of its consumer lending group.

The global editorial team behind the prestigious award evaluates core financial data and statistics, as well as other elements, including the bank's performance and credentials. The award gives emphasis to the bank's achievements, technology initiatives, and overall strategy. The judging also incorporates the editorial team members' market knowledge of the bank.

INQUIRER SPONSORS NVCMAAI AFFAIR

Inquirer AVP for circulation Glo Lardizabal delivers an inspirational talk before the members of the Newsboys and Vendors Association of Cainta, Marikina and Antipolo (NVCMAAI) during its monthly awarding ceremonies recently. The Inquirer, which sponsored the affair, gave out various prizes to all the winners. One of the newsboy winners receives his prize from (from left) Inquirer circulation manager for sales and promotions Bien Baltazar, Lardizabal (below, left) and Association founder and Inquirer news dealer Eulogio Alfonso.

WINNING CAR

Frederick Nodalo (right), marketing chief of Nodalo's West Peak Performance Center, is shown with Vincent Santos (left) of Team Ground Zero, posing with a pro-modified Honda Civic SiR sponsored by Nodalo's Performance Exhaust. The car won top honors during the recently concluded Motorshow International. Nodalo's is the country's pioneering performance exhaust specialist. Its product line includes catalytic converters, headers, sports mufflers, flexible pipes and off-road equipment.

Great films, great deals on video

HELP the fight against film piracy by buying only the original copies that are guaranteed to be laser clear and long lasting. C-Interactive Digital Entertainment is offering quality-oriented individuals its latest promo craze Great Films, Great Deals. In this campaign, several blockbusters that feature superstars from Hollywood are in store for video collectors at a giveaway price of P150.

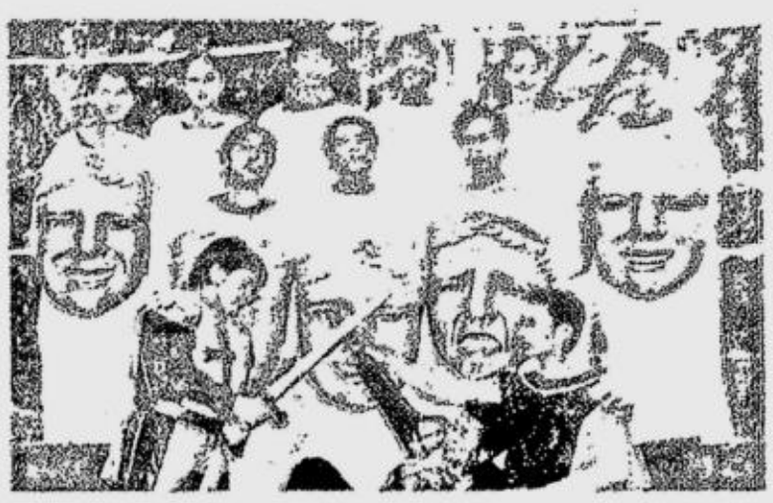
The initial package includes "15 minutes" (Robert de Niro), "Angel Eyes" (Jennifer Lopez), "The Shooter" (Michael Dudikoff), "Jill Ripps" (Dolph Lundgren), "3,000 Miles to Graceland" (Kevin Costner), "Bless the Child" (Kim Basinger), "Bring It On" (Kirsten Dunst), "Driven" (Sylvester Stallone), "Family Man" (Nicolas Cage), "Little Nicky" (Adam Sandler), "Lost Souls" (Winona Ryder), "Pitch Black" (Vin Diesel), "Sugar & Spice" (Mena Suvari), and "The Cell" (Jennifer Lopez).

Then there Tagalog movies, such as "Mila" (Maricel Soriano), "Tunay na Tunay" (Robin Padilla, "Diliryo" (G. Toengi), "Eskort" (Lito Lapid), "Ang Dalubhasa" (Fernando Poe Jr.), "Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" (Mylene Dizon), and "Lagarista" (Piolo Pascual).

For inquiries, call C-Interactive's customer care hotline at 245-5011 to 12.

BUNYE, SOLIMAN AT DSWD FORUM

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye (right) and DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman (2nd from left) were the media guests at Tuesday's Bulong Pulungan Forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel recently. They spoke on the welfare and protection of the senior citizens on UN Older Persons and Elderly Filipinos Week. With them, at left, is Frank Evaristo, president of the Alay Lakad Foundation, and Charito Planas, executive director of Nayong Pilipino.



'FLORANTE AT LAURA' IN TRADITIONAL 'KOMEDYA'

Francisco 'Balagtas' Baltazar's 'Florante at Laura'—written originally as an 'awit', has been dramatized for the stage by Rene Villanueva and is being presented by Gantimpala Theater Foundation as a traditional 'komedya' or 'moro-moro' with additional scenes taken from the traditional theater form like the stylized 'martsas', the 'pinkian' and the 'scaramosa'. Gantimpala's founding artistic director Tony Espejo borrows from the 'komedya' form in the story of two lovers Florante and Laura together with the escapades of Alladin and Flerida. The cast features Arkin da Silva, Adriana Agcaoili, Val Trono, Alma Concepcion, Archie Cayetano, Wowie de Guzman, Jojit Lorenzo, and Bodjie Pascua. 'Florante at Laura' will have performances on Oct. 11, 12 and 13 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, then at the RFC Cinema in Alabang/Zapote Road, Las Pinas from Oct. 18 to 20, and at St. Cecilia's Theater, St. Scholastica's College, Malate from Oct. 24 to 26. For tickets and information, call the GTF office at 895-8314, 0918-9212866, or the marketing office at 899-5745 and 896-3505.

Clips

Voice of the Philippines 2002

NOW ON its third year, Sunrise Entertainment Co., in cooperation with SM Supermalls, invites you to join the 2002 Voice of the Philippines Search for Singing Stars. If you are a 14 to 21-year-old student, male or female, presently enrolled in a reputable school, with good moral character, pleasing personality and remarkable voice quality, visit Unit 21 of the Starmall Apartelle, Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City and bring the following: birth certificate, endorsement letter from the school principal's office or from the music department, 2 pieces 3R picture and a minus one or Multiplex of a song piece for audition. For details, call 7181885 or e-mail vopsunrise@yahoo.com.

Oktoberfest at Canyon Woods

CANYON Woods Resort Club in Laurel, Batangas will hold its own Oktoberfest on Oct. 12. Homeowners and club members are asked to join. Included in the day's events are the launch of the Kiddie Club Mascot when Ranger Cany is introduced, body and face painting and palm reading. A band will perk up the night. Get ready to polka. Put on your best Oktoberfest outfit. For details, visit www.canyonwoods.com.

Oral Health awareness week

CONTINUING its objective to promote oral health care awareness among Filipino kids, the education department and Colgate celebrate Schoolchildren's Oral Health Awareness Week from Oct. 6 to 12. Events in the weeklong, nationwide celebration include toothbrushing skills, fluoride mouth rinsing and oral inspection for grade 1 to 3 public school students. Dental treatment for grade 1 students is rendered by the local chapters of the Philippine Dental Association. This event also launches My Bright Smile 2003 Poster Contest, an artistic competition participated in by grades 1 to 3 pupils under the "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" Oral Education Program. This nationwide observance is part of DepEd's Health Month. Now on its 6th year in the Philippines, close to 5 million Filipino children have benefited from the "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" program.

KAWILIHAN VILLAGE AT 25

Kawilihan Village of Pasig City marked its silver foundation by honoring the village's past presidents at the Kawilihan Chapel. Shown, from left, are honorees architect Marcos de Guzman Jr., Ed Idquival (for deceased Alex Reyes), Romeo Roa, Chito Magsajo, Celestino Mijares, Dr. Eduardo Tan, Lilia Linda Ang, engineer Jose Galang, engineer Renato de Guzman, Leo Sevilla (for deceased Alex Sevilla), lawyer Eduardo Gatchalian, and engineer Jose Jota. The honorees are shown with parish priest Monsignor Rodolfo Gallardo. A plaque containing the names of the past president was unveiled at the village clubhouse.

ProductFiles

Sevidal Bags now available

SEVIDAL was launched recently during the Motherhood & Woman Expo held at the SM Megatrade Hall. Its bags are designed to reflect every woman's personality and style. It offers simple, timeless, classic shapes, yet chic and functional. Each design is meticulously thought out and guarantees a sense of individuality. For retail/wholesale orders, call Liza Sevidal at 715-5080 or 0917-5307696 for assistance and details.

Petron Rev-X keeps you on the go

WITH the high prices of today's vehicles, and the escalating cost of repairs, it is necessary to regularly change a vehicle's oil to keep the engine from breaking down. Diesel-fed vehicles can count on Petron's Rev-X engine oils to stay on the go.

For jeepneys, buses, AUVs and vans used in mild to moderate service conditions, there is Rev-X HD, a heavy-duty, single-grade diesel engine oil recommended for day-to-day driving. Rev-X Hauler is excellent engine oil for mixed commercial and transport fleets subjected to long-distance driving. The ideal match for modern on- and off-road diesel vehicles is the high-endurance Rev-X Trekker. For SUVs and pick-ups with high-performance diesel engines mated to powerful 4x4 drivetrains, the ideal choice is Rev-X All-Terrain. It is a fully synthetic, heavy-duty, multi-grade engine oil designed to withstand the punishment and stress placed on an engine by four-wheeling, towing and hauling.

Lopez set to make his mark at Ad Congress

IT promises to be one of media's biggest scoops as the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) and the United Print Media Group (UPMG), representing the media sector, join hands to organize next year's Ad Congress.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III has been tapped to head the 18th PAC executive committee and is expected to spearhead the full tri-media coverage of one of the most celebrated events of 2003.

Lopez III, better known as Gabby, has expressed all-out support behind the country's advertising pillars in pursuing the vision of making the Philippines the center for creative excellence in Asia. A leader and achiever in his own right, he is determined to make his mark by trailblazing historic endeavors for the premier advertising event.

As a start, he has gathered the various organizations involved in the event for a series of team-building activities that aim to strengthen their team spirit. He has also committed to document a first-ever manual which will institutionalize the working knowledge for future Ad Congresses. The pillars, as well as past and present players in the industry, would be references for this manual. After a decade, Lopez also made it possible for the media to once again host the PAC.

Gabby Lopez hails from the third generation of Lopezes whose media empire can rightfully lay claim to being a part of the country's history. He assumed his post as ABS-CBN chair in 1997, after his father, the late Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr., turned over the reins of the family-owned corporation to him.

ABS-CBN has enjoyed network leadership since its founding in 1953, apart from the years of 1972 to 1986 when the Marcos government took full control of the company and all its affiliates. When the company was restored by the Aquino administration in 1986, the young Lopez started as director of finance. He was appointed general manager a year later and the network regained its supremacy shortly after.

With a tried and true maverick heading the 18th PAC, Ad Congress history will never be the same again.

Can big business mix with art?

WHAT has art got to do with the business of selling cars?

For the ordinary consumer, it might seem strange that a company engaged in the business of automotive manufacturing would allocate a considerable amount of resources to mount something as impractical as, say, an art exhibit or a musical concert.

This is because commerce and industry are generally perceived to be occupied with profitability and growth, especially in this present economic slump.

Toyota Motor Corp., one of the world's leading name in car manufacturing and distribution, is set to mount the biggest Toyota Classics ever, a live concert featuring Spain's foremost orchestra, the Cadaques Orchestra, that will be toured here in Manila as well as in many other countries across Southeast Asia.

The concert will be held on Oct. 25, 2002 at the Meralco Theater, 7 p.m.

Toyota has been producing the Toyota Classics series for 13 years now, inviting and touring some of the finest orchestras, soloists, conductors and other notable performers from around the world to play well-known classical and contemporary symphonies.

At first, it's difficult to discern how this event can equate with actual sales for the company. But looking at what other companies are doing, one will discover that this is a growing trend in modern business.

Instead of churning out profits all the time, Toyota is simply doing what most multinational corporations worldwide do: promote worthwhile causes and issues, from art to socio-civic assistance, scientific exploration, sports, education, and other humanist activities.

In the Philippines, there's the leading telecommunications service provider promoting its annual art contest, wherein the winning works get to grace the cover of our telephone directories. Pharmaceutical companies are launching various health-care drives nationwide for the poor. And then there's the founder of liquor company, whose name is now synonymous for literacy, prestige and accomplishment.

Gone are the days when big businessmen are concerned with just profits alone. Now their extensive participation in outreach programs reflects a growing concern to uplift the conditions not just of a particular market or customer, but of the majority.

The common desire of these companies is simply to help enrich the people and the environment in which they conduct business, as a way of reciprocating the benefits they have received through their years of operation.

In Toyota's case, it has chosen to support classical music not only to impart prestige to its world-class image, but also to spread awareness of an art form—music— that can be appreciated across different countries and cultures.

It's going beyond products to sell an intimate, elevating experience that will have a lasitng positive effect in the lives of its patrons.

Toyota even pledged to donate the proceeds of the Toyota Classics 2002 to Tabang Mindanaw III, the massive humanitarian program that seeks to extend assistance to the Filipino deportees from Malaysia.

(For inquiries and reservations, call 891-5610.)

My father fondly referred to the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation (GAUF) as his sixth heir. He had big dreams for this heir.

He envisioned it –

To be an instrument of God, a university that teaches the students the verities of the mortal life and the life of everlasting;

To be a place of learning, molding the students to be men of vision and mission in life, one of love and service to his family, to his country, to humanity and God;

To be a means where the students would not only gain classroom education but also acquire the skills for lifelong learning – a continuous learning anchored on the realities of our times, seeking not only what he could get from society but also how he can serve the country.

Like a child, GAUF underwent a lot of changes. From being an Institute of Agriculture, it has matured into a full-fledged university. Through it all, my father as its President guided GAUF like his own child to follow its road.

Now, as we celebrate the centenary of his birth, GAUF is also entering a new phase of its life as the De La Salle – Araneta University. Having been integrated into the De La Salle System, we are confident that Bro. Rolly Dizon at its helm will continue my father's task of leading the school based on our shared vision of excellence, integrity and belief in God.

Bro. Rolly Dizon played a big role in looking after GAUF when he was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1985-86 and later on when he became the Chairman from 1987-1995. As Bro. Rolly Dizon becomes the President of the De La Salle – Araneta University, we are confident that we are leaving a member of our family, my father's sixth heir, to capable hands who can steer the school forward to reach what my father has envisioned and carry her to greater heights.

If my father were alive today, we, his family and heirs, are sure that he would be very happy to see his dreams continue through the boundless energy of the De La Salle community to create a university of service for God and Country that GAUF was meant to be.

Ma. Victoria Araneta Concepcion
Visitator

P&G says it's 'back,' mulls new options

CINCINNATI—Chair and chief executive AG Lafley proclaimed to shareholders on Tuesday that Procter & Gamble Co. is "back" after a massive, two-year turnaround that refocused the company on its core brands.

Since Lafley took over as CEO in 2000, P&G has focused on its biggest brands like Tide and Pampers in its biggest markets, including the United States and Western Europe. The company has also slashed thousands of jobs and eliminated a sizable chunk of factory space as part of a cost-cutting plan that has saved millions of dollars.

The stock has also risen by more than two-thirds, ending at $89.30 on the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday, as the company has benefited from sales of newer products like Crest Whitestrips and the recently acquired Clairol hair-care line.

P&G also benefited from lower expenses and its place as a "defensive" stock in a bear market.

"P&G is back. P&G is leading innovation. P&G is taking the initiative to make everyday life better," Lafley told shareholders.

That is a different message than Lafley delivered just two years ago, when the company's stock was hammered after it missed earnings estimates, and the push to develop new products and a failed attempt at a major pharmaceuticals acquisition detracted focus from the company's main business.

If P&G is indeed "back," where does it go from here? The company has maintained its long-term goal calling for sales growth of 4 percent to 6 percent and profit growth in double digits on a percentage basis.

Lafley said the sales growth goal could be met without a major acquisition and declined to comment on whether the company was planning to bid for the 43.6-percent stake held by Allianz AG in Germany's Beiersdorf AG, maker of Nivea skin-care products.

But P&G is counting on a 1 percentage point of growth each year coming from acquisitions, and Lafley said the company was focusing on higher growth businesses like health care and beauty care.

Industry sources said last week that P&G has given Allianz, a financial services provider based in Munich, Germany, a rough idea of what it may be prepared to pay for the stake. Any deal would be complicated by German takeover rules that would require P&G to make a public bid to all Beiersdorf shareholders.

Industry sources have said that family-owned Tchibo, which owns 30.6 percent of Hamburg-based Beiersdorf, has also held preliminary talks with Allianz about a possible purchase.

Lafley said only that P&G was always looking for brands that fit with P&G's existing businesses and provide growth opportunities, including geographic expansion. *Reuters*

Political scientist churns out beds of roses

From page C3

never repeated because the flowers always differ in color, texture, materials," Gutierrez states.

How is this done? First, she would ask to see the client's house or the room where the arrangement is intended. This doesn't happen in one sitting. She then talks to the client to discover the client's lifestyle preferences, attitude and personality.

"Go inside the mind of the client to learn more about her. The profession, the ancestry, the age—all of them are taken in careful consideration to complete an arrangement," Gutierrez adds.

This technique has worked well for Gutierrez because she can already zero in on the colors and the materials she will use for clients that include, among others, the country's who's who and the poshest hotels and resorts.

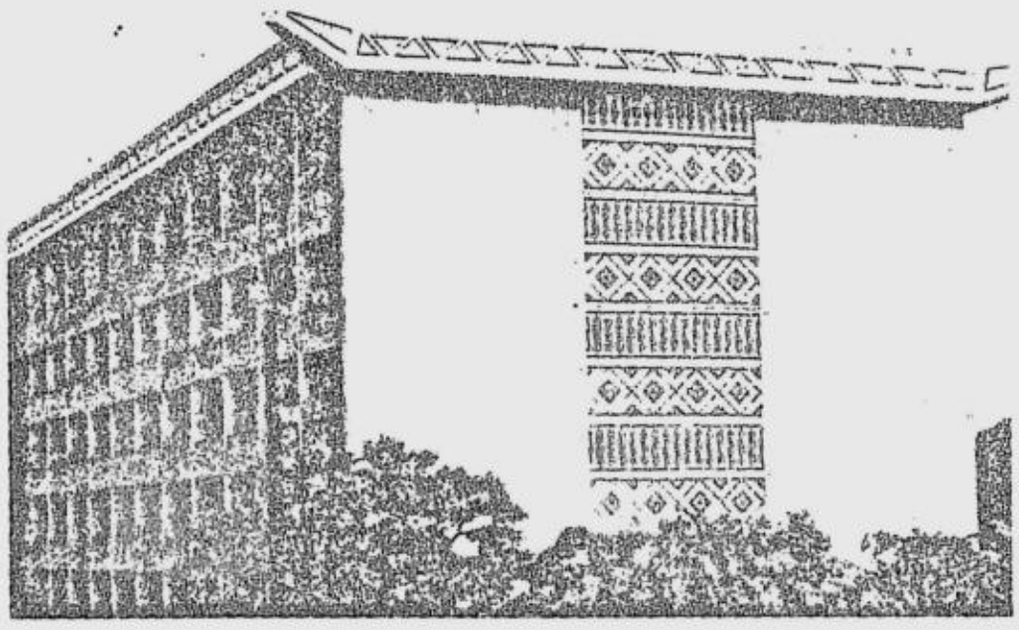
For the expansion, Gutierrez knows she has to "clone" herself if she wants to serve her clients with the same dedication. She trained a staff of floral artists who can do the basic arrangements. The final touches, however, still depend on Gutierrez's hands.

Also, she has hired a group of interior designers who graduated from top schools like UP and the Philippine School of Interior Designs. Since these young turks already have a background in interior design, they are able to suggest to clients or even know their individual taste. But the final say is still with Gutierrez.

"My clients have become my good friends and as much as I know them, they also came to know me and my touch. They instantly know if I personally did the arrangement," Gutierrez ends.

Perseverance, keen business sense and floral artistry have made a bed of roses for Gutierrez's business. And these days, she happily lies in it.

From Green to Green.



Gregorio Araneta University Foundation,
the first private agricultural education institute in the country,
has now been integrated into the De La Salle University System.

It is now called
De La Salle-Araneta University

A realization of one man's vision of
molding not only minds and hearts for our land
but also hearts for our country and souls for our God.

"I believe in the capacity of the Filipino people, in our innate good nature, in the need of making maximum and efficient utilization of our abundant, untapped natural resources, to increase the wealth of our people, to provide a decent livelihood for all."

Dr. Salvador Araneta
Founder of Gregorio Araneta University Foundation and RFM Corporation

Today we congratulate Bro. Rolando Dizon in his induction as the 12th President of the De La Salle - Araneta University.

RFM

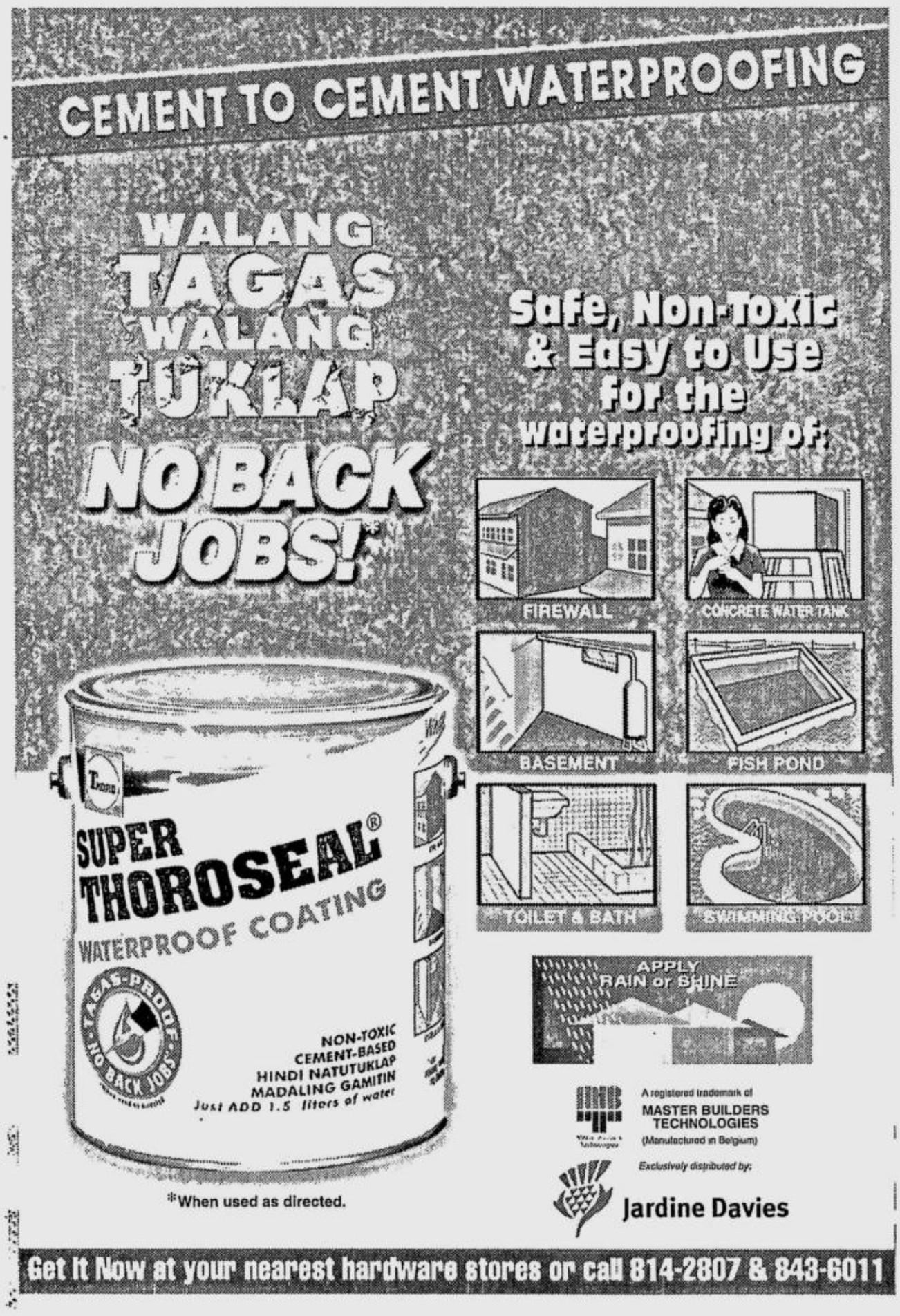
2002 CREBA-HUDCC NATIONAL CONVENTION

October 9-11, 2002 • Baguio Country Club, Baguio City

ALLIANCES & UNITY: Key to Economic Recovery

DAY 1 - OCTOBER 9, 2002 (Wednesday) – BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

AM		
8:00	Arrival/Registration	Exhibit Area
9:30	Motorcade/Courtesy Call	Assembly: 9:00 am, Lobby
11:30	Opening of Trade Exhibits – Ribbon Cutting	Arch. GLORIA VERGARA Mrs. REBECCA DOMOGAN Mrs. ROSE L. DULALIA Dir. PURIFICATION MOLINTAS
12:00	Lunch/Business Matching	Exhibit Area
PM		
1:00	FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES	Ballroom
	Entry of Colors	ROTC-University of Baguio Marching Band
	Invocation	Doxology(Voices & Graces of University of Baguio)
	National Anthem/CREBA Hymn	
	Call to Order & Opening Remarks	Mr. FLORENTINO S. DULALIA, JR., National President
	Welcome Remarks	Hon. BERNARDO M. VERGARA, City Mayor Mr. FLORANTE C. OFRECIO, Overall Chair, National Convention
2:00	"Enhancing Global Business Opportunities in Real Estate Industry"	Mr. DANIEL TEO TONG HOW, President, FIABCI
	"Country Bankers Presentation"	Mr. RENATO V.F. GONZALES, VP for Marketing
3:00-6:00	**PRESENTATION OF HOUSING AGENCIES INITIATIVES**	
	"Amended Guidelines Implementing BP 220 & PD 957"	Hon. ROQUE A. MAGNO Commissioner, Housing & Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)
	"Update on Housing Initiatives"	Mr. GONZALO A. BONGOLAN, President, Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC)
	"Update on the Resettlement Program of NHA"	Atty. EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN, General Manager, National Housing Authority (NHA)
	"Update on the CMP Program of NHMFC"	Atty. ANGELICO T. SALUD, President, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp (NHMFC)
	MOA SIGNING - HUDCC/NHMFC/CSHFI	
	Report on the Status of the 2001 Convention Resolutions	Ms. PURITA R. SOLIVEN, Overall Chair, National Convention 2001
	Report on the Result of the 2002 Pre-Convention Workshops	Ms. IMELDA S. SANGALANG, Overall Vice Chair, National Convention
7:00pm	CHAPTERS' & AFFILIATES NIGHT - Lexber, Inc. Presentation	"Hip Hop to the Tune of Modern Dance Competition" Ms. ALEJANDRO HERRERA - President, Lexber, Inc.
	DISCO NIGHT (Concorde Hotel) - Attire: Casual	



Her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

My warmest congratulations to the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) on the occasion of the National Housing Convention.

I commend you for your active role in the advancement of our country's real estate industry. This undertaking with the theme, "Alliances & Unity: Key to Economic Recovery", is indicative of the willingness of the private sector to join hands with the government in order tomeet our national goals. This partnership will certainly infuse with more vigor the housing and construction industry, and will provide our countrymen with more opportunities for employment and decent housing.

In promoting the local realty indstry, you also provide greater opportunities for realtors, constructors and othr allied business and professions, expand trade linkages, and help ensure a more dynamic business environment for our country.

As you meet with your colleagues in the profession, I urge you and the other key players in the industry to double your efforts in helping our administration to meet our housing goals for the poor. Help accelerate development and achieve economic growth for our country. Together, we can win the war against poverty and achieve our goal of a strong Republic.

MABUHAY!

HUDCC Chairman MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the organizers of the CREBA-HUDCC National Convention 2002!

As we move ahead in catalyzing the development of our country, there is a parallel need to uplift the conditions of our brothers and sisters who have less in life. For this reason, we are glad to have the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association as our partner in development.

Even with our best foot forward, the government can only do so much. Much of the work will still be borne by those who care enough to initiate projects that will impact on the living conditions of our poor brethen who need a roof over their heads.

We have a huge task ahead of us and the only way to do it is through continuing alliance and unity, for this is truly the key to economic recovery.

Congratulations and more power!

CREBA National President FLORENTINO S. DULALIA, JR.

I am pleased to welcome the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, our guests, delegates, and all my fellow CREBANS, to the 2002 CREBA-HUDCC National Convention in Baguio City.

For more than a decade now since the birth of Creba, we gather once more as a single Body of real estate and housing stakeholders for a common cause. The business environment of the present time may be favourable or adverse depending on one's outlook in life. One way or the other, the need to come together as one is deemed indispensable.

Convening the various stakeholders in the industry is itself a manifestation of our continued hope for the betterment of our industry. And we have the unswerving enthusiasm and ardour of all you who have expressed your support as sponsors, delegates and guests to thank for.

To our counterparts in the government housing sector, it is our pleasure to continue to work side by side with you in staging this event.

To the organizing committee, my sincerest congratulations for a job well done. Anything that is worth doing for the industry, is and will always be worth the effort.

To the convention delegates, our warmest welcome. Your participation is a clear sign of your desire to be involved and to be counted in the common effort to push forward a truly national shelter program for all Filipinos.

To all our supporters in and out of CREBA, we extend not only our thanks but our assurance as well, that your assistance will be put to best use.

Overall Convention Chair FLORANTE C. OFRECIO

On the occasion of the 2002 CREBA-HUDCC National Convention, I take pride in welcoming the various stakeholders involved in the housing and real estate industry to the City of Pines.

I wish to thank the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council for taking part in the preparations of this joint endeavor in the interest of housing and urban development. Our task of staging this major housing event has undoubtedly been greatly facilitated as in the preceding year.

I wish also to thank our guests speakers for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of housing. Million thanks, too, to our sponsors for your continued support of our cause, and to our delegates for your patronage.

To the members of the organizing committee, it has been a pleasure working side by side with you, all for the love of Creba.

To the industry that we profess to take cudgels for, we have not stopped hoping for your betterment. We in Creba will continue to exert all our efforts, to see you retake your role as the pump-primer of our economy.

Mabuhay ang lahing Pilipino!

DAY 2 - OCTOBER 10, 2002 (Thursday) – BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

AM

7:00	Breakfast & Registration	
8:30	PLENARY SESSION	
	Entry of Colors	
	Invocation	
	National Anthem/CREBA Hymn	
	Call to Order	Mr. FLORENTINO S. DULALIA, JR.
9:00	Welcome Remarks	Usec. ARMANDO A. DE CASTRO, HUDCC
	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Sec. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

	Industry Resolutions & Pledging Session	Mr. FLORENTINO S. DULALIA, JR., National President
9:45-12:00	**DIALOGUE WITH THE SECRETARIES**	Sec. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR, Housing & Urban Dev't Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Sec. HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. JOSE D. LINA, Department of Interior & Local Gov't Sec. HERNANI A. BRAGANZA, Department of Agrarian Reform
	MOA SIGNING - CREBA/NREA/BATA/OSHDP	
12:00	Business Matching & Lunch	
PM		
1:00-2:30	**PRESENTATION OF HOUSING FINANCE INITIATIVES**	Atty. ROMERO F S. QUIMBO, President, Home Dev't Mutual Fund Atty. WINSTON F. GARCIA, Pres. & GM, Govt Service Insurance System
2:30	Snacks	
2:45-5:15	"Good Governance"	Chairman BAYANI F. FERNANDO, Metropolitan Manila Dev't. Authority
	"Tourism Initiatives"	Sec. RICHARD J. GORDON, Department of Tourism
	"Update on the Legislative Agenda on Housing"	Senator MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR. Cong. PROSPERO C. NOGRALES, 1st District of Davao City & Chair, Housing Com.
	"Update on the House Bill 1300: Omnibus Housing & Urban Dev't Act"	Cong. EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA, Lone District, Parañaque City
7:00	GALA & AWARDS NIGHTS - Attire: Formal	

NATIONAL CONVENTION · BAGUIO CITY · 2002
CREBA HUDCC

2002 CREBA-HUDCC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Housing, key to national healing and economic recovery

AN UMBRELLA organization of some 3,500 major players in the Philippine housing and real estate industry with 47 chapters nationwide, Creba is composed of private corporations, partnership, single proprietorships and individuals all engaged directly or indirectly in land and housing development, building and infrastructure construction, material production and supply, and services in the various related fields of engineering, architecture, community planning, and development financing. Conceived in the early 1960s, its main objective is to unite the different sectors of this burgeoning industry and provide a single vision towards national development.

As the collective voice of the industry, Creba has committed and has been recognized as an effective and dynamic partner of government in the attainment of national goals either by direct participation or meaningful advocacy with public welfare being always paramount.

The expertise and resources of the Chamber provide added impetus to the real estate industry as major catalyst and pump-primer of economic growth.

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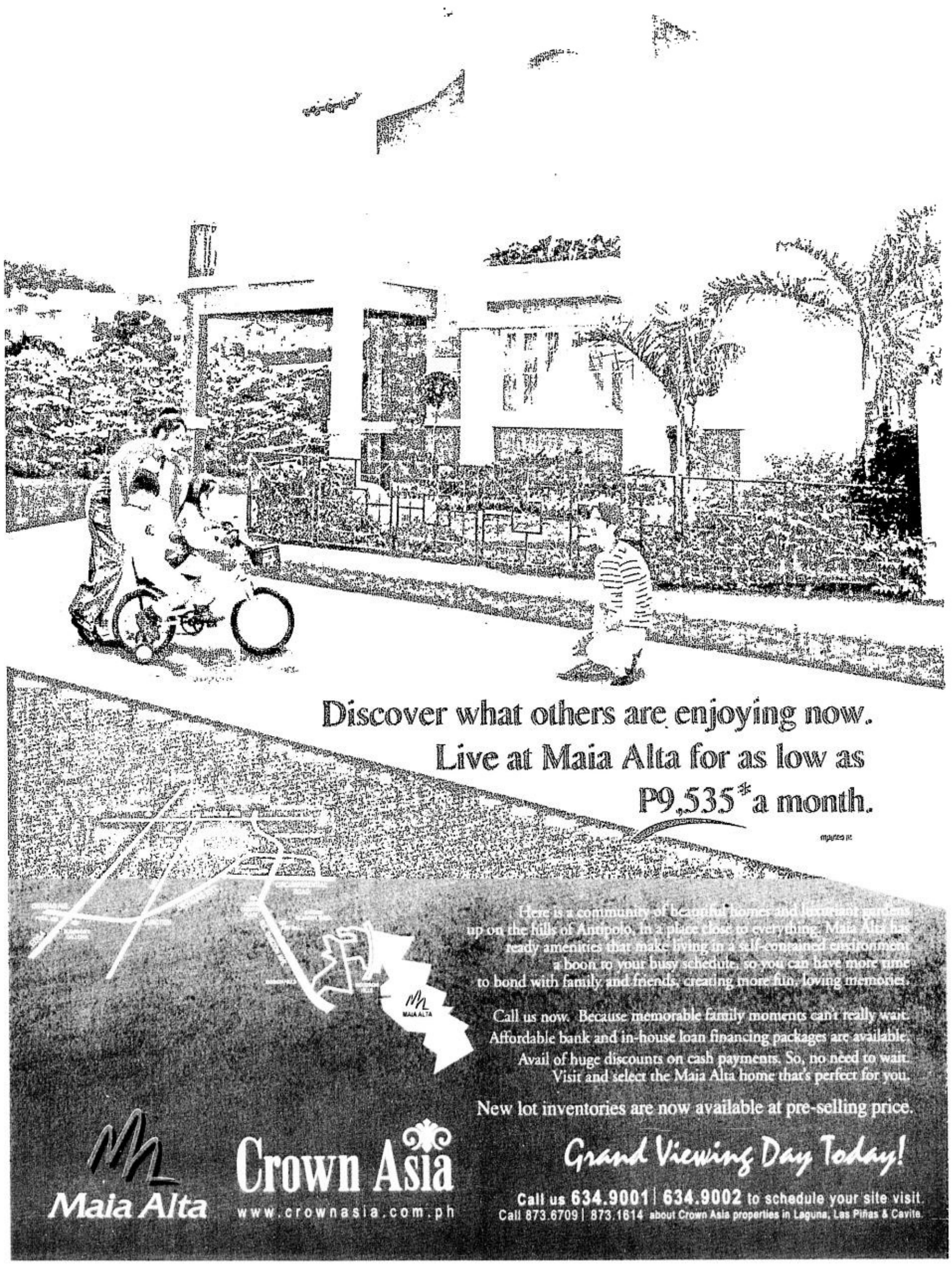

DAY 3 - OCTOBER 11, 2002 (Friday) – CAMP JOHN HAY

AM		
7:00	Golf Tournament ~ President's Cup Business Matching	Camp John Hay Golf Course
8:00(Optional)	City Tour / ripping/Project Visitations /Inspection / Shopping	
10:00	"U.S. Initiatives" - Titling Insurance "Case Study: Low Cost Housing w/ Centralized Sewerage System"	Mr. LEON KATZ, Corporate Secretary, CREBA USA Engr. PORTHOS P. ALMAJOSE, President, Pipeline Engineering
12:00	Lunch REAL ESTATE FORUM "Dialogue with the National Developers"	-Department of Trade & Industry/Bureau of Trade Regulation & Consumer Protection -Real Estate Service Council of the Phils. (DTI-BTRCP-RESCOP)
4:00	Joint Meeting: National Directorate, Regional Directors, Chapter Presidents & International Chapters Meeting	
6:00	Awarding of Golf Winners	
7:00	FAREWELL DINNER "Bonfire Night" * Attire: Western I Dancing	John Hay Club House

DAY 4 - OCTOBER 12, 2002 (Saturday) – CAMP JOHN HAY

AM	
7:00	Mass
10:00	Departure

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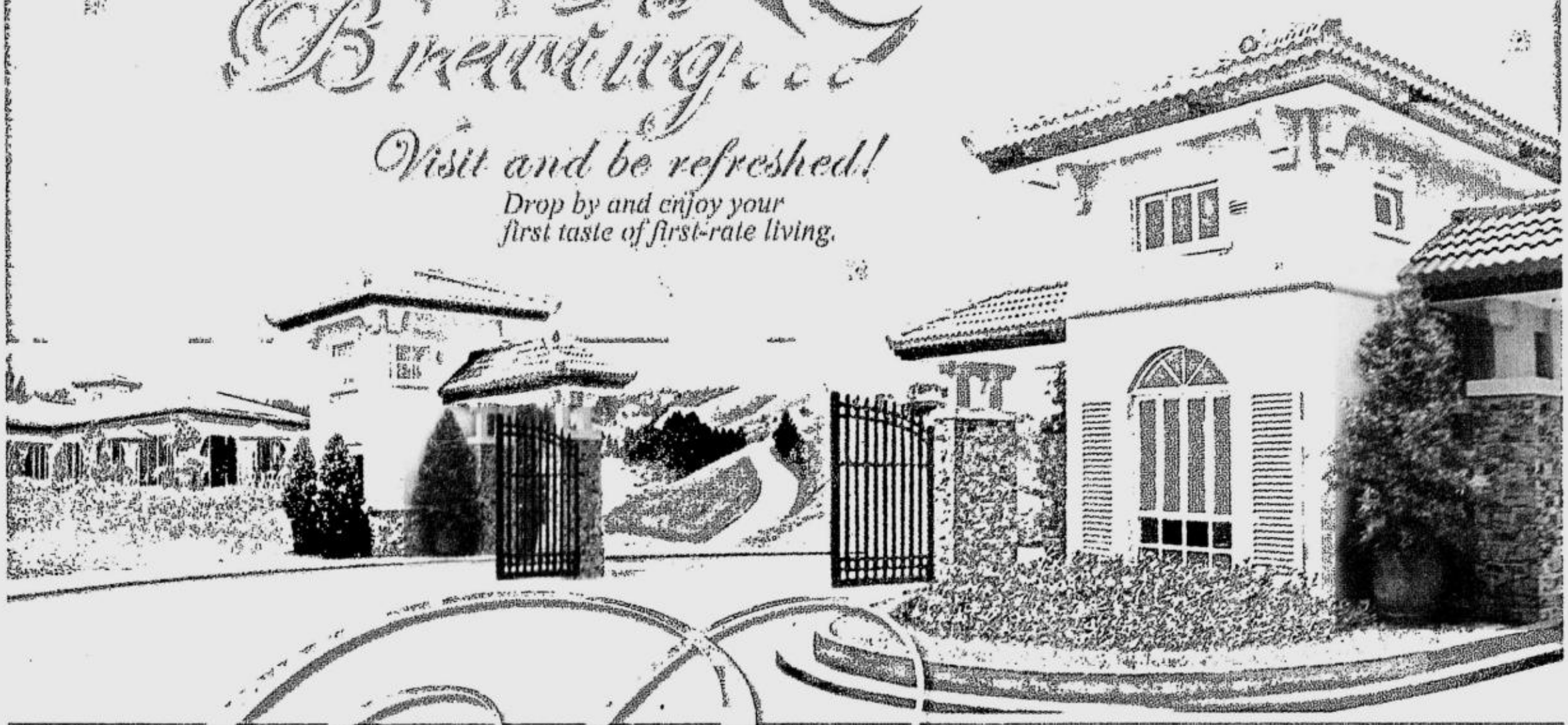

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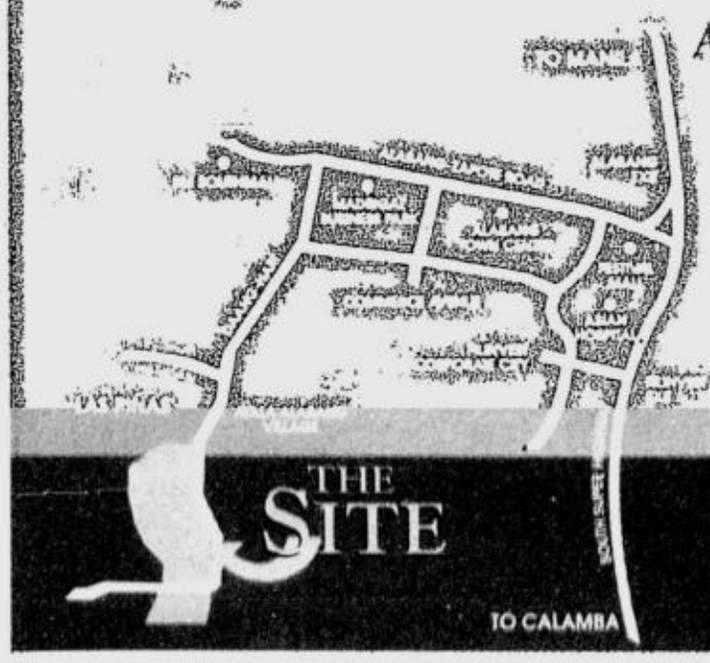

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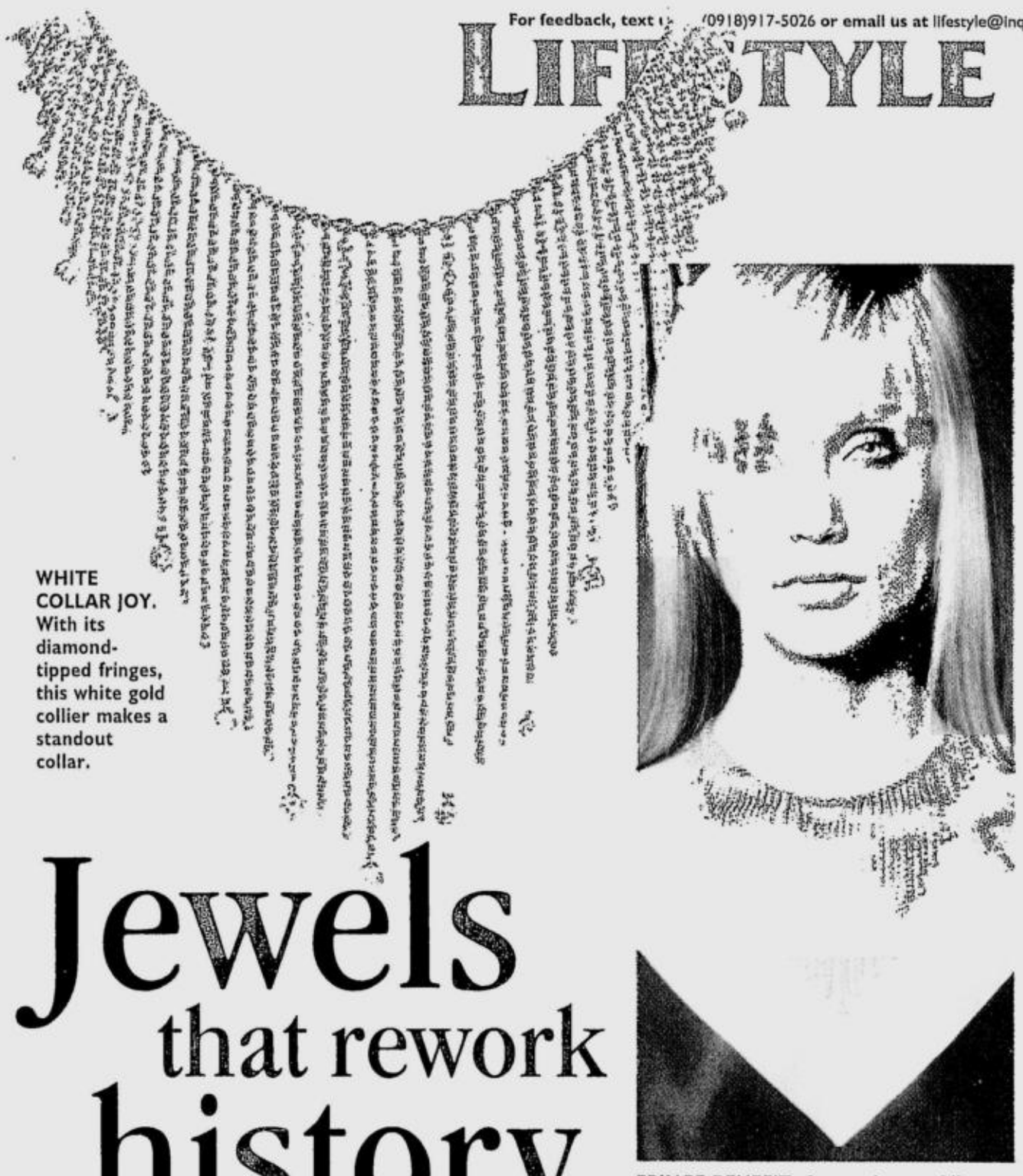

WHITE COLLAR JOY. With its diamond-tipped fringes, this white gold collier makes a standout collar.

FRINGE BENEFIT. A sexy, low neckline gets more alluring with this fringe necklace set with a total of 4.2 carats of diamonds.

Jewels that rework history

Van Cleef and Arpels has gone down in style-jewelry history for its invisible setting and snake chain; now it introduces angel's hair or fine cascading chains

By Kitty Go
Contributor

IF THERE is a phrase that summarizes today's Van Cleef and Arpels (VCA), it must be "Everything old is new again." Certainly, the world-famous Paris-based jewelry house established at 22 Place Vendome in 1906 is laden with design history. However, the house's bold and inspiring designs have not only captured the trends of every era since the early 1900s, but also changed the way people have worn jewelry throughout the 20th century.

In the 1920s, VCA patented the much-imitated (but never equaled) "mystery setting," or what jewelry aficionados call concealed or invisible setting. In the 1930s, VCA then patented the *minaudiere*, calling it "an exclusive

JEWELS/ p.D2

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Real People. True Stories.

"I've worked hard for all I've achieved – but why should it show on my skin? Imedeen's my way of saying 'thank you' to myself."

Alice Devulgado, 47, former working student, now founder & president of ABD Overseas Manpower Corp.

As a child in Abra, Alice crossed a river to reach school -- today, she helps others cross oceans to a better life. But this hardworking lady doesn't forget herself in the process: "Others spend on clothes or jewelry – why not on your skin?" Of course, an achiever like Alice demands a product that delivers – that's why she uses Imedeen. Imedeen works on skin's inner layers -- for firm, radiant skin 24 hours a day. "My colleagues notice that despite a hectic and stressful schedule, I still manage to look good...when they ask why I'm 'blooming', I tell them: it's not a facelift, it's Imedeen!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin stratum: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser stratum which implies better support and ability to hold moisture

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New scents capture personalities of Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres

RICHARD Gomez

LUCY Torres-Gomez

BENCH and Herbench have successfully captured the personalities of a well-known couple to create two of the most exciting scents in the market today.

Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres-Gomez. One of the country's most respected power couples, they are beautiful, captivating and, undeniably, icons for all generations. And the new scents celebrate the chic acuity and style of this celebrity couple.

Bench's Icon plays around the image of Richard Gomez as an icon in the fields of entertainment and sports. The scent is woodsy with a dash of spice, bringing to mind pictures of a languid day spent at the greens after a successful tee-off. It is invigorating and exciting.

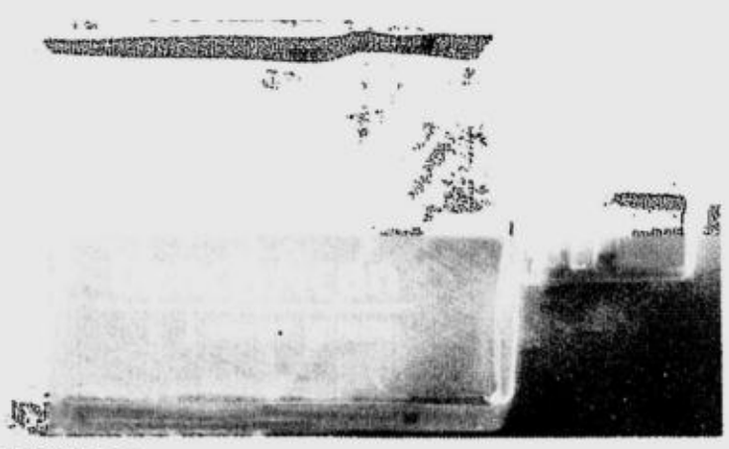
Herbench's Wisdom reflects the charming Lucy Torres-Gomez. She embodies the ideal wife and mother—patient, nurturing and loving—qualities that can only come from an innate wisdom and experience.

Wisdom has pear, bergamot and pineapple notes, complemented with lily of the valley, jasmine, sandalwood, cedarwood and musk. These ingredients create a scent that is relaxing and tranquil.

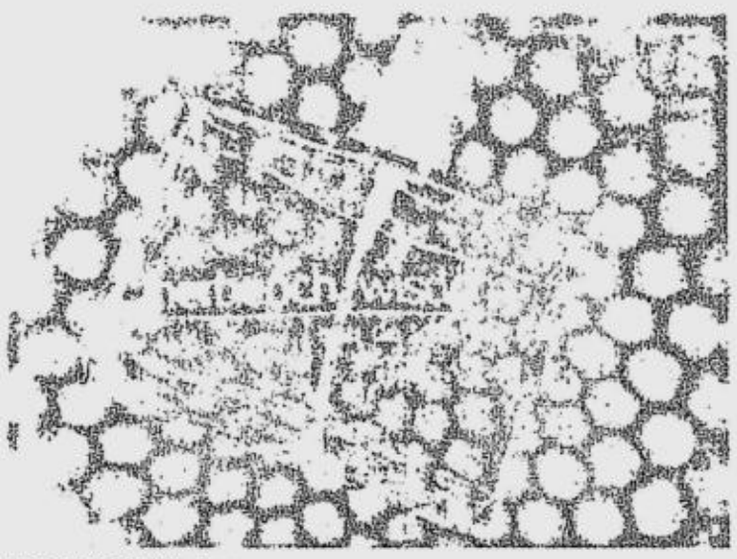
Both scents come in transparent packaging, giving you an easy peek into the crystal blue of Icon and the lush, peachy tinge of Wisdom.

Icon's woodsy-citrusy aroma, with a hint of floral-spice, is perfect for your hectic schedule whether at work or at play. Wisdom, with its combination of fruity and floral ingredients, is specially formulated to capture the essence of cool breeze wafting through orchards. The tinge of pineapple adds a succulent flavor to the overall effect. Sandalwood and cedarwood offer a slightly tangy note that lends Wisdom a mystical aura—giving it an old-world scent.

Icon and Wisdom eau de toilette are available in all Bench and Herbench boutiques at P389/100ml.



BENCH Icon



HERBENCH Wisdom

BENCH Icon and HerBench Wisdom deo body sprays

Jewels that rework history

From page D1

creation to replace the handbag."

Today, the house known to adorn the rich and famous introduces several contemporary yet classic lines catering to the young and fashionable. But then, this is not a first for VCA. For, in 1954, the venerable house introduced the "boutique" concept (which many design houses today use for cosmetics and accessories) that married good design and impeccable quality with reasonable prices.

Inspiring snake chain

Another much-copied VCA look is the snake chain, which was introduced in 1936. It is interesting to note that this house signature style inspired Bvlgari's Tubogas, which was introduced much later. The supple, flexible and extendable snake chain has proven its versatility by appearing as handles of *minaudieres* in the 1930s and of handbags in the 1950s, and as *passe-partout*, a multipurpose piece of jewelry composed of a chain and one or several clips. It can be worn as a necklace, bracelet or belt when clipped together or separately. Today, however, the snake chain has found prominence as a watch strap for the classic Cadenas watch line introduced in 1935.

NO HANG-UPS. A secret combination of links and diamonds in-between chains keeps the Van Cleef and Arpels fringes from tangling.

Time jewels

The VCA Boutique des Heures on Place Vendome has been the purveyor to watch connoisseurs since it opened in 1910. Like its jewelry, the watches were inspired by the trends of the zeitgeist and, to this day, each piece carries the quality of being a "jewel that happens to give or tell time." By 1918, pocket watches adorned with precious stones were followed by a succession of precious wristwatches, including Pierre Arpels' original design for himself, the PA 49, which incorporated precision time keeping and precious stones using the "mystery setting" on the dial. During the Art Deco period, when everything from architecture to fashion was linear, VCA created a watch with two little shutters concealing a dial made of gold, black enamel and coral. In the '30s, VCA also created the famous watch using a $20 coin for the dial.

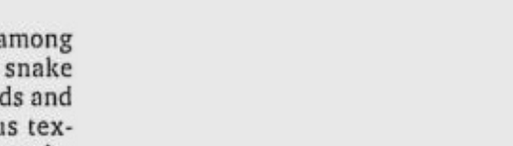
But it is with the Cadenas that VCA now sets the trend, like it did almost 70 years ago. The uniqueness of the watch is not only in the dial and the face but also in the clasp. On your wrist, the watch basically looks like a bracelet with a concealed watch. The variations of the Cadenas are endless—diamond-studded, yellow or white gold cases, pave-set diamond accents, dials of mother of pearl or rubies and diamonds on a mystery setting. And that's just the watch itself.

Watch bands are interchangeable among 75 or 125 square links of gold, the snake chain bracelet, diamond-studded bands and an array of leather straps in various textures and colors. The Cadenas and other signature VCA pieces can be found at VCA Hong Kong at the Peninsula Hotel in Kowloon (tel. 852-2368/7648) and at Landmark in Central (tel. 852-2522/9677). Opening this fall will be their flagship store at Prince's Building, designed by Anouschka Hempel of London's Blakes and The Hempel.

Fashion fringe

Most of the first half of the 20th century was dominated by jewelry-inspired filaments. Jewelry fashioned after ribbons, thread and fringes adorned the necks and wrists of the most fashionable women. After the popularity of the snake chain in the 1930s, the 1940s heralded the arrival of angel's hair or fine cascading chains, gold with a woven effect, and the triple-linked Cordes Ludo, named after the youngest Arpel brother.

VCA introduces the new Fringes line to celebrate this style based on the tradition of fabric and thread. The delicate and playful pieces can be worn to heighten the sensuality of a low neckline or play hide-and-seek on a bare wrist. The fringes follow your every movement and, in terms of fashion, they give you the casual look of frayed jeans or the mystery of the East (think the Queen of Sheba making her exit through a beaded curtain).



THE HANGING GARDENS. Yellow gold fringes tipped with solid gold drops move with your body and perform the same function as ribbons, concealing and revealing skin.

And yet, when you "move like Harlow in Monte Carlo," the chains never tangle, unlike the lovers you leave behind. Why? The secret is in two different sets of links and between each chain the finish of a brilliant diamond or a solid gold drop that will make all the difference.

E-mail the author at kitty@kittygo.com

What to do with torn peso bills

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Recently, when I went shopping in Divisoria, I did not realize that I received some torn P10 paper bills, one with a shredded edge. I'm sure I'm not the only one with this problem. When I bought *pan de sal* in the bakery near our place, the owner even refused to receive the P10 bill. What should I do? Is there a law about torn paper bills?

UNHAPPY HOUSEWIFE

You can bring the torn paper bills to a bank near where you live, or, better yet, to the bank where you have a savings account. But they should at least be ¾ of their original size, so that the bank can change them. The best way is to bring them to the cash department of the Central Bank (CB) and exchange them for new ones. The CB has regional offices all over the Philippines.

Yes, there is a law about torn bills, and ignorance of that law is no excuse. Presidential Decree 247 states:

1) That it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully mutilate, tear, burn or destroy, in any manner whatsoever, currency notes and coins issued by the Central Bank of the Philippines, and

2) That any person who shall violate this decree shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than P20,000 and/or by imprisonment of not more than five years."

Many have made use of coins, like 10-centavo pieces strung together to serve as cord or *aras* during weddings. Those doing so should, of course, use demonetized pieces. However, old coins are valuable antiques, and can be worth much more than their original value. Those who have old coins can contact Albino Quiban Jr. of the Bank Notes Society of the Philippines, at tel. 524-0548 or e-mail bns@pacific.net.ph.

Remembering an old friend

After I came home from hearing Mass last Sunday, I suddenly remembered my high school classmate in the late '80s, who was my best friend. We last saw each other during the baptism of my firstborn in 1996. Since then, we have lost touch because I returned to our province, while she is there in Manila with her husband, who's a prominent lawyer. I'd like to see her again, talk about old times, but I hesitate to do so, because of my low status in life. We had to return to the province because my husband failed to renew his contract. Please tell me what to do.

LINDA

There is nothing wrong about renewing friendships. You surely know her address. Write her to ask how she is. Tell her the truth. She will be happy to hear from you.

Correcting an erratum

I would like to correct the "Erratum" printed in your column (PDI Lifestyle, 10/01/02). "Thou shall not commit adultery" is the Sixth Commandment, and not the Seventh, as stated by the reader who called you by long distance. Please refer to the Holy Bible, the Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, Verses 1-17. Thank you and God bless.

JOHN FRANCIS

Thank you for your concern. I should have looked at the Bible again before quoting him, but I was convinced he was correct when he took the trouble to "correct" me. In a future column, I will quote all the Ten Commandments, because I am sure many readers do not have the Bible in their homes.

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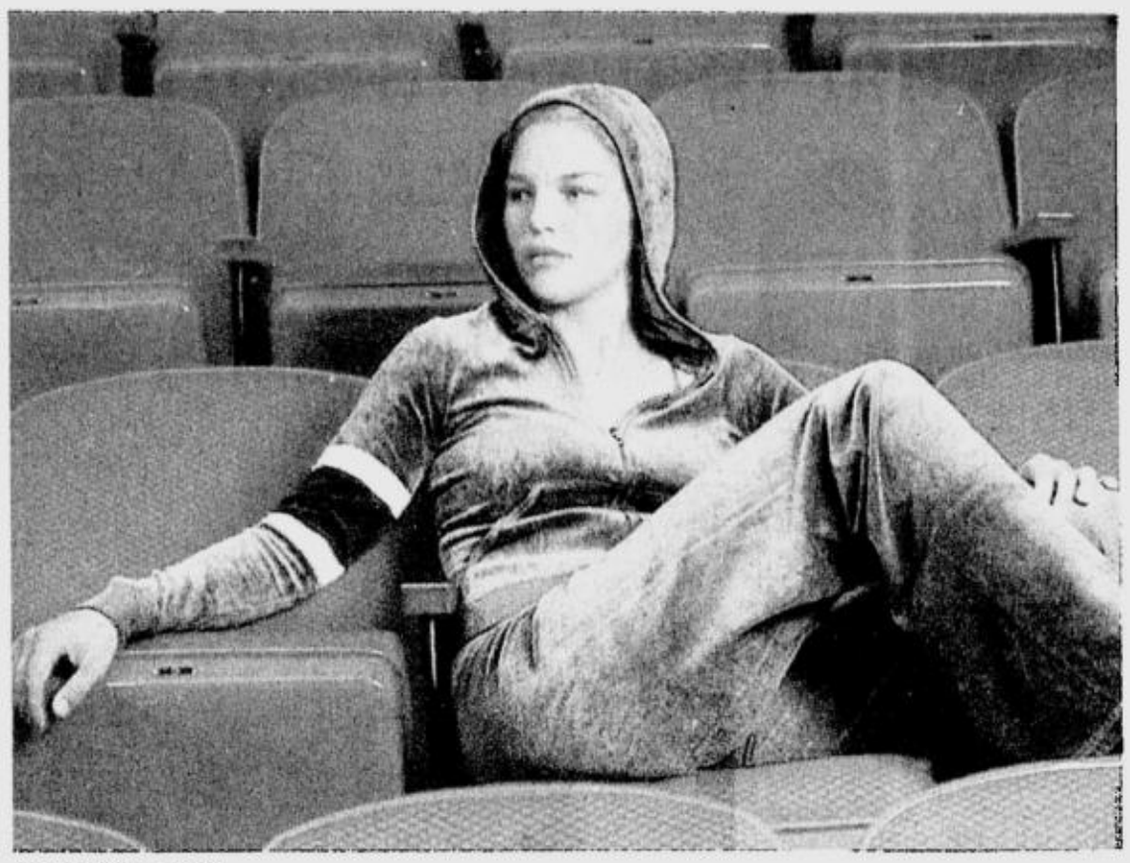
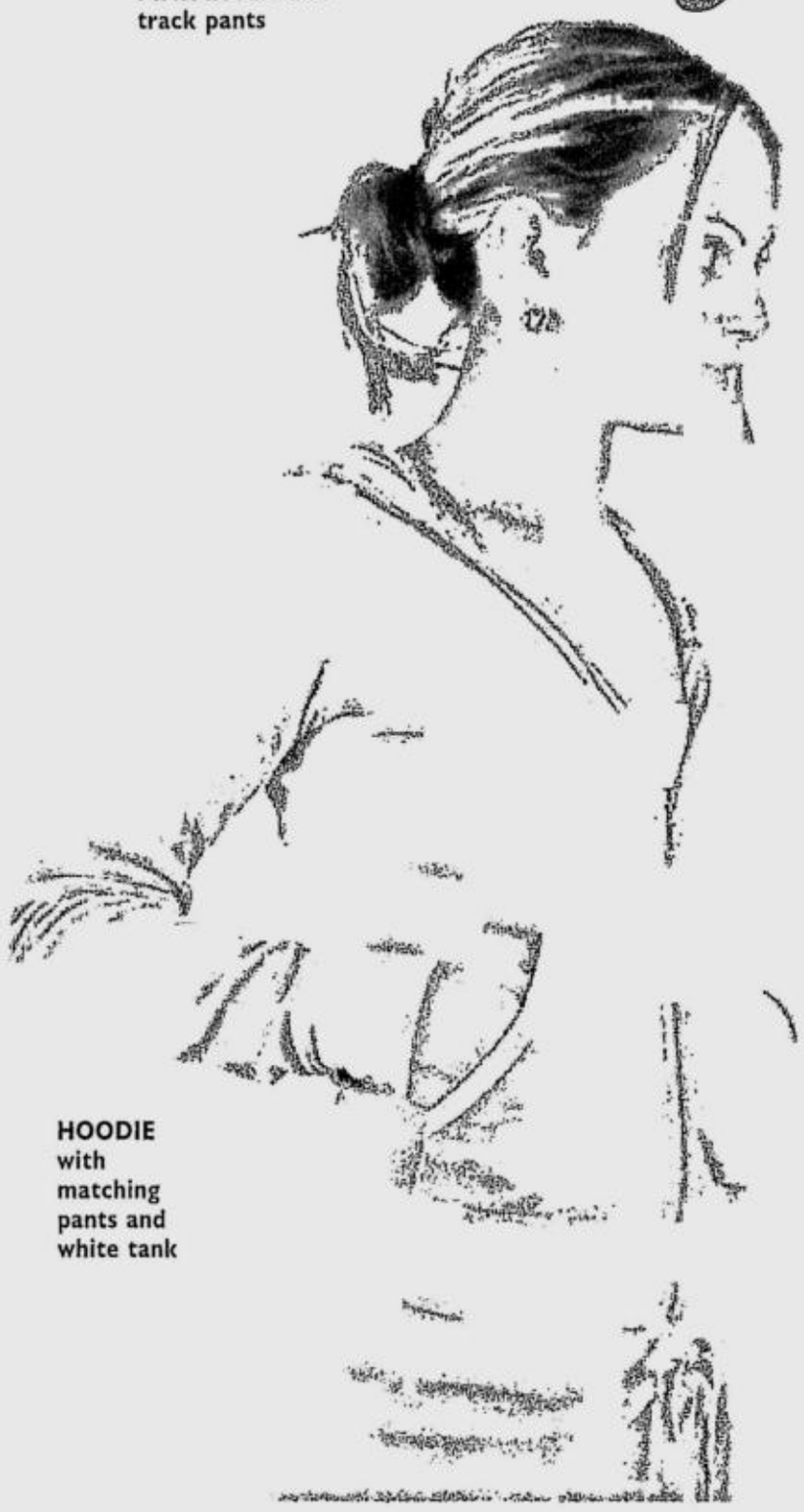
PINK hoodie and track pants



VELVET tracksuit

Juicy *fashion bits*



HOODIE with matching pants and white tank

FOR L.A. girls, it is their modern uniform, and for Hollywood beauties, it's the perfect thing to wear between trailer and filming. Launched in Manila last month by Wish, Juicy Couture has become popular.

"Everyone wears our jeans, cords and T-shirts," says Pamela Skaist-Levy, one of the owners of Juicy Couture. "It's just what people wear. They are steering away from overdone clothes and going back to basics."

"Juicy is so L.A.," says Gela Nash-Taylor. "All you need are sexy jeans and a T-shirt, Manolos, a great belt, and you're dressed right."

Pamela and Gela came up with the idea of putting up the store while chatting about Hanes V-neck tees. The line began with 12 styles of T-shirts and has grown to 65 styles, 45 types of bottoms, 30 colors and washes, three types of denim, terry cloth, cashmere and embroidered sweaters.

Their hip message has attracted a clientele that's as juicy as the label's name: Julia Roberts, Kate Hudson, Sarah Michelle Gellar, China Chow, Bijou Philipps, Britney Spears and Cameron Diaz.

Gellar recently wore one of her many Juicy hoodies to an InStyle photo shoot, and even has one printed with a big "F" on it, which stands for new husband Freddie Prinze Jr. "Juicy would be embarrassed to know how many I have," the "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer" star told USA Today recently. "Let's just say that when I get up at 5 a.m. to go to work, there's only one thing that I wear, and that's Juicy Couture."

Kate Beckinsale, like most hoodie buyers, wears the matching low-riding drawstring pants, and Sharon Stone has a cashmere jacket. Nelly Furtado and Jennifer Lopez have worn them in their videos.

Juicy Couture is now available at Wish located on the G/F Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

ZIPPED black hoodie

CROPPED denim skirt with pink top

MALAYSIA'S Hair Impression Team

Hair tilt slated Oct. 15

MALAYSIA'S Hair Impression Team is the special guest performer in this year's Schwarzkopf Philippine Hairdressing Awards (PHA) 2002. They will showcase the latest cuts, styles and colors in the special hair show before the awarding ceremonies on Oct. 15 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel's ballroom.

The group is composed of Denny Phang, Patsy Tai, Simon Kim and Schwarzkopf's Asia Hairdressing Awards 2001 grand champion for the commercial style category, Austin Ooi, who were all schooled in prestigious academies in the UK and Japan. Running the elite Hair Impression Studio Academy in Malaysia, they are best known for their cutting-edge style and trend-setting techniques, which have influenced their peers in the industry.

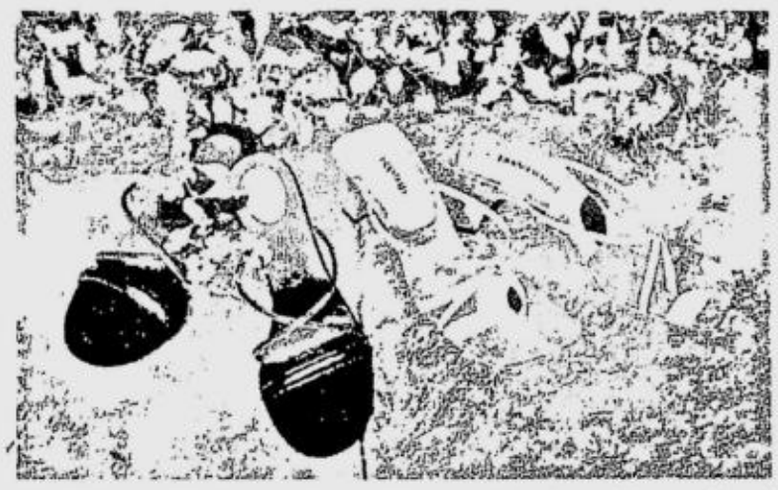
As platform artists, they have done a host of performances for various product companies all over the world. They have also conducted seminars and demonstrations on the latest hairstyles for local and international audiences. Their works have been published in Hairdressers Journal (England), High Light International (Australia), Asia Passion (Japan), Citta Bella (Malaysia), among others.

The Hair Impression Team will also conduct a Creative Cutting Seminar featuring the latest trends and forecasts in hair styles, cuts, and colors at the Edsa Shangri-La's Batanes Room on Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are at P2,000 per person (inclusive of lunch and certificate of participation). Participants are advised to bring cutting and styling tools and a female model with medium-length hair.

The PHA is now on its third year of staging. It was established by Schwarzkopf to recognize, honor and reward exemplary skill and talent in the industry. Tickets to the event are at P1,500 per person (inclusive of dinner, hair show and awards ceremony).

Makeup is courtesy of MAC Cosmetics. MAC's luxurious Fall/Winter 2002 Collection can be viewed at the special display area during the event.

For tickets, call Top Style Marketing Inc. at 726-8507 to -08 or 723-1763.



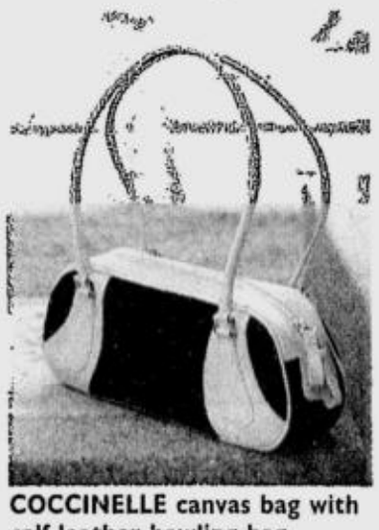
BRUNO Magli X-design slides with naked insole and Frano Maggi printed thong sandals with geometric heels

BOXY and fashionable genuine leather bags, with grosgrain accent and stitches

EMBROIDERED chiffon shawls

Colorize your wardrobe

BRUNO Magli lizard slides with rhinestones



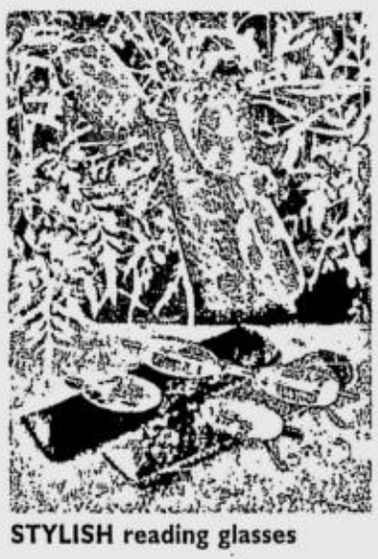
COCCINELLE canvas bag with calf leather bowling bag

MOMENTO, known for its Italian labels and polished bags, offer products beyond the basic black tones.

Shoes come in shades of purple and pink and bags come in black and tan or black and polished brown combinations.

For sandals, black is paired with white and an occasional small floral detail. Colors come into play in clothes of lightweight fabrics.

Reading glasses, which are becoming important accessories, are designed to be not only comfortable but also chic. They come with matching textured soft or hard-covered cases.



STYLISH reading glasses

How to avoid being a victim of rape

RAPE is an act of violence. It is an attempt to control and degrade using sex as a weapon. It can happen to anyone—children, students, wives, mothers, working women, grandmothers, the rich and poor, and boys and men.

Rapists can be anyone—classmates, co-workers, a neighbor or delivery person, ugly or attractive, outgoing or shy, often a friend or family member. They commit their crime again and again, until they are caught.

Protecting yourself

Use your head.

• Be alert! Walk with confidence and purpose.

• Be aware of your surrounding—know who's out there and what's going on.

• Don't let alcohol or other drugs cloud your judgment.

• Trust your instincts. If a situation or place makes you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, leave!

In your car

• Park in areas that will be well-lighted and well-traveled when you return.

• Always lock your car—when you get in and when you get out.

• Look around your car and in the back seat before you get in.

• If your car breaks down, lift the hood, lock the doors, and turn on your flashers. If someone stops, roll the window down slightly and ask the person to call the police or a tow service.

• Don't hitchhike, ever. Don't pick up a hitchhiker either.

Indoors

• Make sure all doors (don't forget sliding glass doors) and windows have sturdy, well-installed locks, and use them. Install a wide-angle peephole in the door. Keep entrances well-lighted.

• Never open your door to strangers. Offer to make an emergency call while someone waits outside. Check the identification of any sales or service people before letting them in. Don't be embarrassed to phone for verification.

• Be wary of isolated spots—apartment laundry rooms, underground garages, parking lots and offices after business hours. Walk with a friend, co-worker, or security guard, particularly at night.

• Know your neighbors, so you have someone to call or go to if you're scared.

• If you come home and see a door or window open, or broken, don't go in. Call the police from a public phone or neighbor's home.

When the unthinkable happens

How should you handle a rape attempt? It depends on your physical and emotional state, the situation, and the rapist's personality. There are no hard and fast, right or wrong answers. Surviving is the goal.

• Try to escape. Scream. Be rude. Make noise to discourage your attacker from following. Use powerful assertive commands like "Stop" or "Stay back." Surprisingly, many attackers will be intimidated by this show of force and confidence from an individual. Using an aggressive tone will certainly convey that you are serious.

• Talk, stall for time, and assess your options.

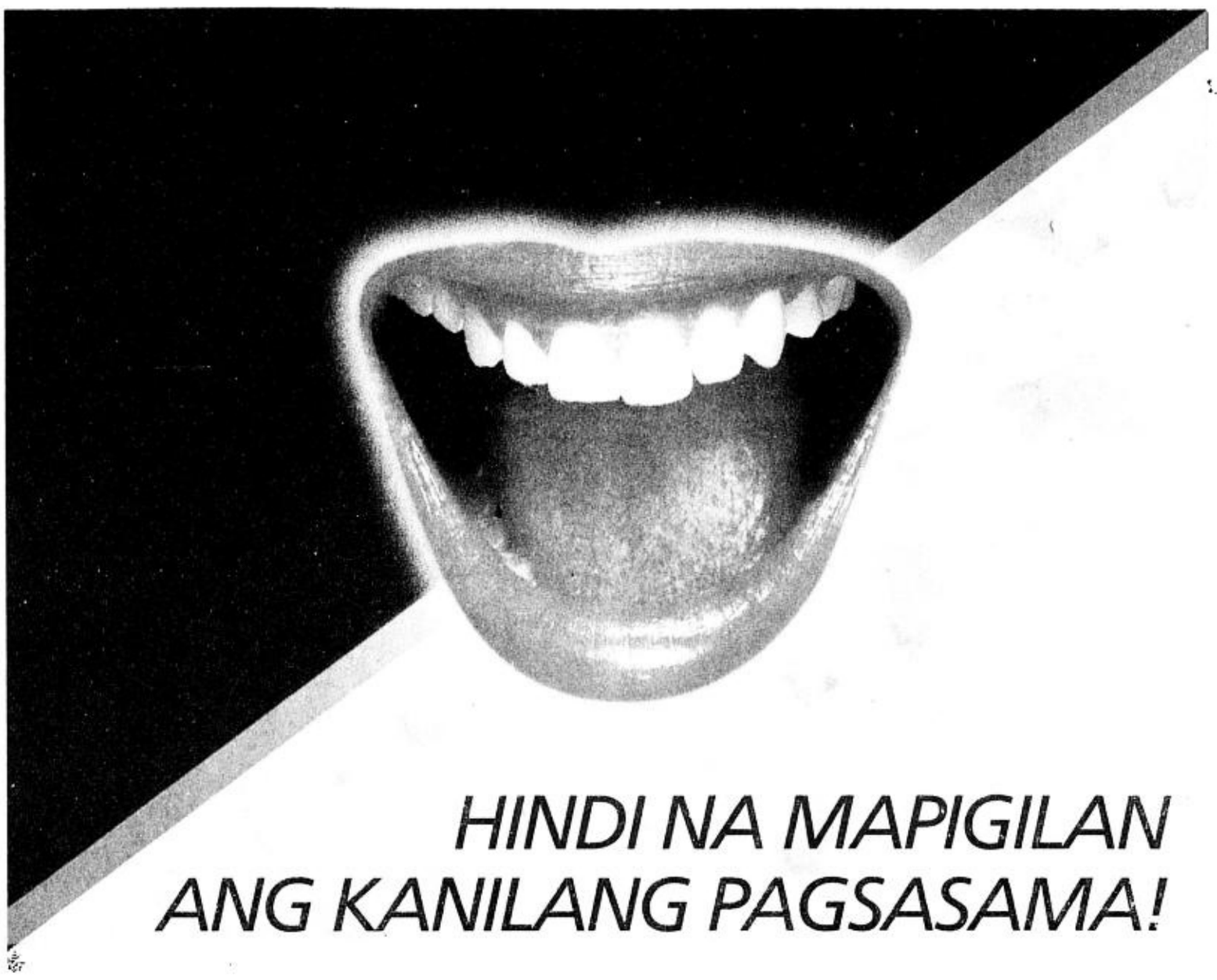
• If the rapist has a weapon, you may have no choice but to submit. Do whatever it takes to survive.

• If you decide to fight back, you must be quick, determined and effective. Target the eyes or groin. Or employ your Mace Triple-Action defense spray. A typical response of an attacker after being sprayed on the upper part of his body is that his eyes would slam shut. As he inhales, pepper gas and tear gas are pulled into his lungs, causing intense choking and coughing. Profuse tearing and intense burning sensation produce severe anxiety and disorientation. Panic sets in as the attacker fights for survival. As serious as these effects are, they are temporary. Minutes after you leave the scene, the attacker will recover.

Being aware of your surroundings and projecting the right attitude are important to your well being. Unfortunately, however, these are not enough. You must take charge of your personal safety. If you feel uncomfortable in any of the situations described, follow the steps we have outlined on how to protect yourself.

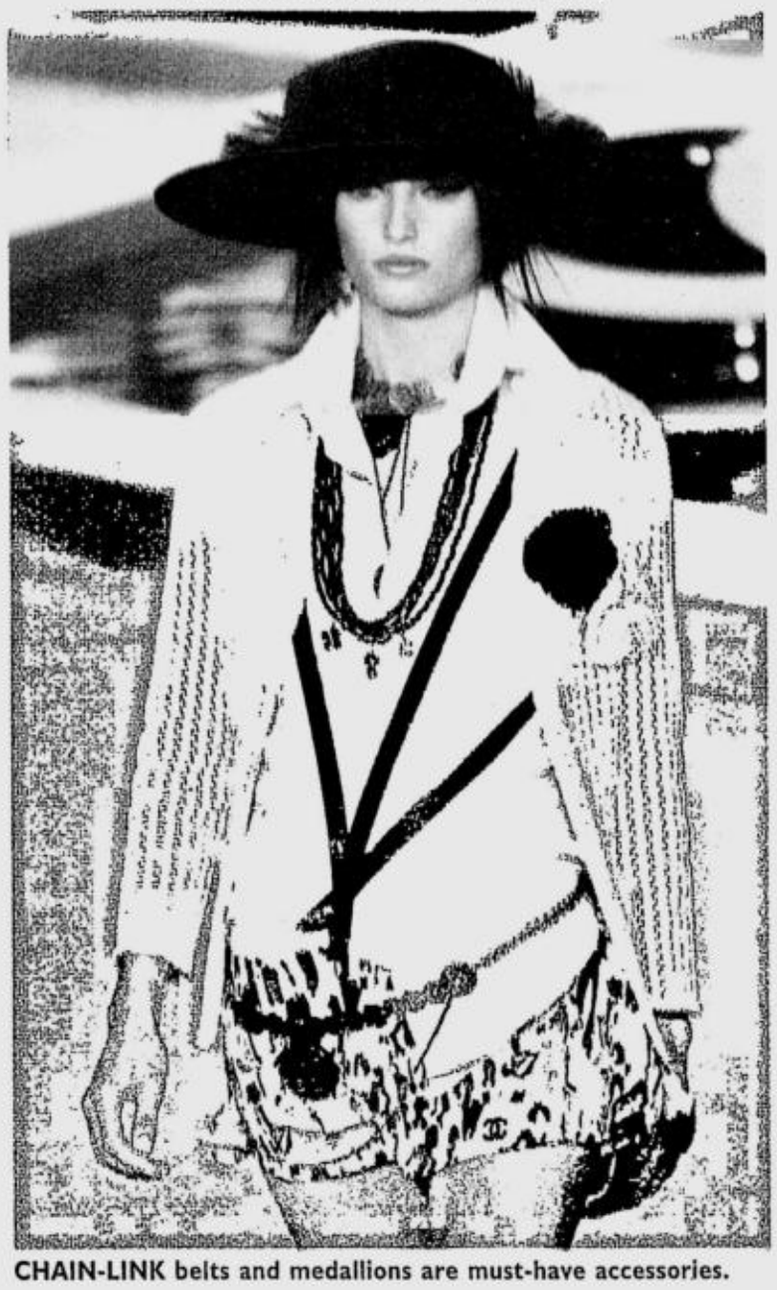
By becoming a safety-conscious person in every phase of your life, you can reduce your risk of becoming a victim. There is no substitute for being prepared.

Call 842-3963 or 8096393, e-mail wizard@easycall.com.ph. The Mace Triple-Action Defense Spray is available for P595 at the following stores: True Value, Handyman, Sports House, Robinsons Supermarket (Galleria and Imus), Upscale Audio, selected National Bookstores and SM Health and Beauty.



Available at: Big R • Cash & Carry • Cherry Foodarama • CVC Supermarket • Ever Supermarket • The Landmark Supermart • Makati Supermart Makro • Masagana Superstore • Metro • Parco • Purity Supermarket • Puregold • Robinsons Supermarket • Rustan's Supermarket • Shoppersville SM Supermarket • South Supermarket • Sta. Lucia East Supermarket • Tropical Hut Supermarket • Uni-Mart • Uniwide Sales • Waltermart

BLACK-AND-WHITE statement is back.


CHAIN-LINK belts and medallions are must-have accessories.

FEMININE line with an edgy side

PARIS FASHION WEEK

Chanel goes chic

SUMMER is all about stylized swimsuits like this.

PHOTOS: AFP

HIGH-WAISTED black skirts paired with sequined tops are chic and sexy.

PARIS—Sporty, sexy and chic was the message for next summer sent by Chanel on Tuesday, while Valentino offered a mix of neatly cut camouflage safari wear and sultry Hollywood glamour.

Karl Lagerfeld unveiled a gorgeous ready-to-wear collection for Chanel full of wearable day and evening attire—primarily in ever-chic black and white—with plenty of options for those ready to spend next summer at the beach.

Smart trademark Chanel suit jackets made from denim tweed complemented wide-leg, low-waisted denim trousers with front pleats, worn with a chain-link belt with double-C charms and Coco Chanel medallions.

For evening, Lagerfeld offered a nice alternative to the ubiquitous hip-hugging pants and skirts—high-waisted black skirts, paired with sequined bikini tops or a form-fitting blouse.

Ropes of chains with pearl beads or Chanel pendants accompanied both day and night ensembles. Tiny clutches, drawstring leather pouches and white beach tote bags all bore the famous logo.

Lagerfeld offered a series of swimsuits, athletic jackets and beach cover-ups—mainly in black and white, but with a few pastel prints mixed in—suggesting that upscale fashion-conscious women can be sporty, too.

The svelte designer cut a fine silhouette himself as he came out to take a bow, with his bevy of bathing beauties applauding his every step.

Amid global anxiety over a possible US military strike in Iraq, Valentino urged trendsetters to keep army fatigues on the runway and off the battlefield, with khaki and camouflage prints dominating his collection.

To make his point, he brought in US pop artist Andy Warhol's 33' x 6.5' painting "Camouflage" from Switzerland to serve as the catwalk backdrop and called his show "No War, Just Warhol." Jackets in khaki or a banana leaf print topped crisp ivory trousers or more casual khaki track suit pants with elastic cuffs. Skirts were of varying lengths, but all of them were slit high in the front to show off tanned legs.

Coats and jackets sported military-style epaulets or were cut safari-style. Brass rings outlined circular cutouts throughout the collection.

Valentino's evening gowns—whether in classic red silk crepe, mud-colored silk or chiffon with colorful abstract prints inspired by the works of Dutch-born artist Willem de Kooning—were feminine and fluid, skimming the body and the floor.

Strappy stiletto sandals are the must-have shoes for next summer, while large leather tote bags with circular handles and ample fringe are sure to grace the bronzed shoulders of well-to-do Rodeo Drive shoppers.

Jean-Charles de Castelbajac transported spectators to the Sahara, offering flowing silk robes printed with desert images, camels or maps of north Africa, and asymmetrical wrap dresses made of blanket-weight wool in ethnic patterns.

Pearls were sewn onto denim bell-bottoms, leather chokers or used to hold together tiny thong panties, very visible under low-slung jeans. Straps with buckles cinched hooded ponchos or kept silk dresses from sliding off.

His signature orange appeared throughout—in the models' eye shadow painted on like sunglasses, gourd-shaped handbags, the cording on sandals fit for a Roman warrior or a chiffon scarf topping the final white pants suit. *AFP*

SHEER fabrics pay tribute to the feminine form.

As Bush unleashes the dogs of war, Paris unleashes defiant glamour on the catwalk

Sunshine looks from Kenzo

SLEEVELESS yellow dress

PARIS—Flirty, sunny clothes were outstanding at Kenzo's Sunday collection for summer ready-to-wear. At Givenchy, the summery look was even more skin-baring and daring, with tiny minis and vivid beachwear.

Kenzo's outfits, designed by the Japanese creator's longtime assistant, Gilles Rosier, had terrific Mexican touches—pointed and brimmed hats, dresses beaded way down the seams to emphasize the body, wonderful coral crepe de chine blouses paired with lean white pedal pushers.

All the whites were amazing, from jumpsuits with zips to drawstring long jackets. White shorts and short skirts were paired with beige boots buckled up the sides.

A slim caramel leather bustier sheath was followed by excellent numbers in shiny bronze leather—pants, bustiers or skirts with eyelet cutout details.

Rosier also went into fluid summer looks, with fancy light print dresses that looked easy to wear.

The few swimsuits were excellent, such as a bronze knit tank top over a tiny black bikini.

Another good and practical idea—in the true Kenzo vein of nature-meets-sophistication—was pants or skirts in bright olive with pretty toppers featuring parrot-jungle prints.

The accessory to look for is an excellent, roomy leather shoulder bag with a cartridge effect in a wide strap across the chest.

At Givenchy, Julien Macdonald went for beach looks—a change from his last-season offering of red-light district styles.

Alber Elbaz at Lanvin turned in a charming collection in his second offering for this house. Having left Guy Laroche for a brief stint at Yves Saint Laurent, this American-Israeli seems to have found a good niche in Lanvin.

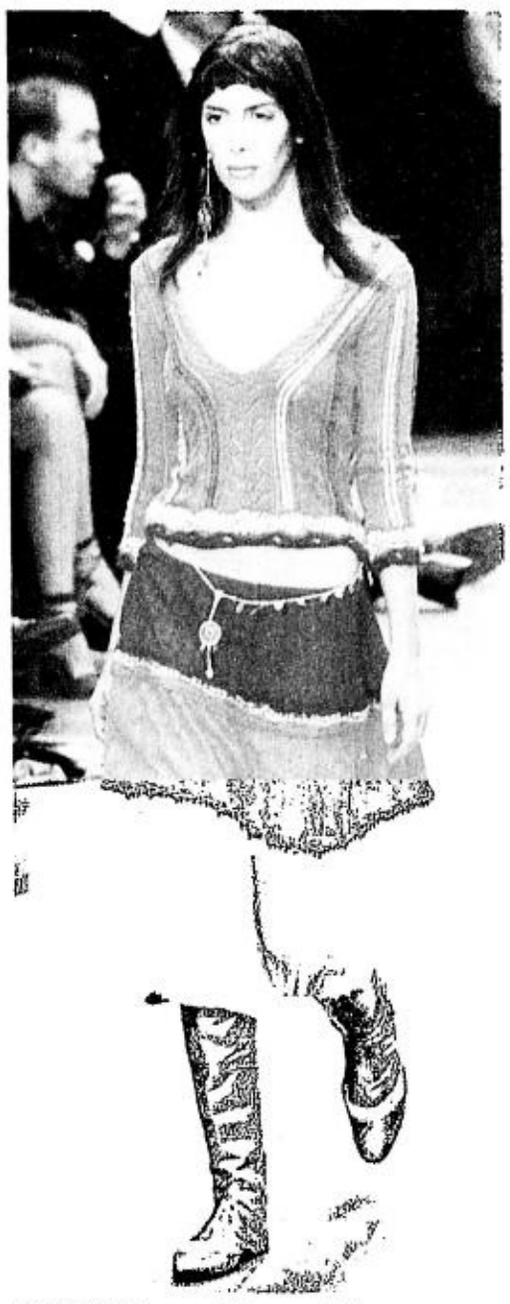
The first collection of Stephane Parmentier for the house of Montana was honorable, but the designer could have been less timid. After all, he's worked with big names like Karl Lagerfeld, Givenchy and Lanvin. *AP*

Summer 2003 will have Mexican touches

SKIRT with inserts and mint top

BEADED top and leather trousers

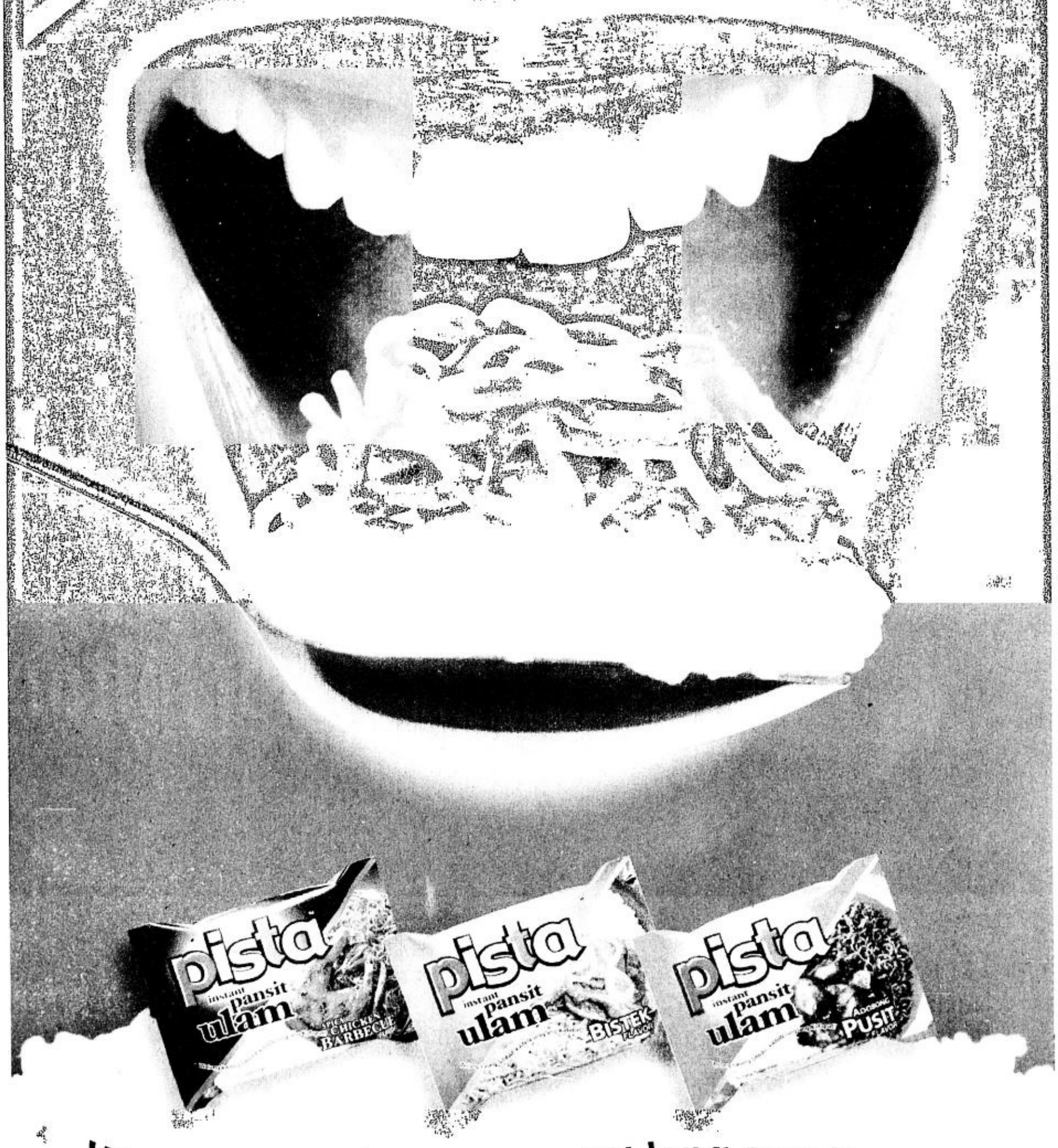
PHOTOS: AP



KNITTED top and flounced dress

SA HIRAP AT GINHAWA, MAY ULAM KA!

pista instant pansit ulam



Walang kasing SARAP, KANIN lang ang Katapat!

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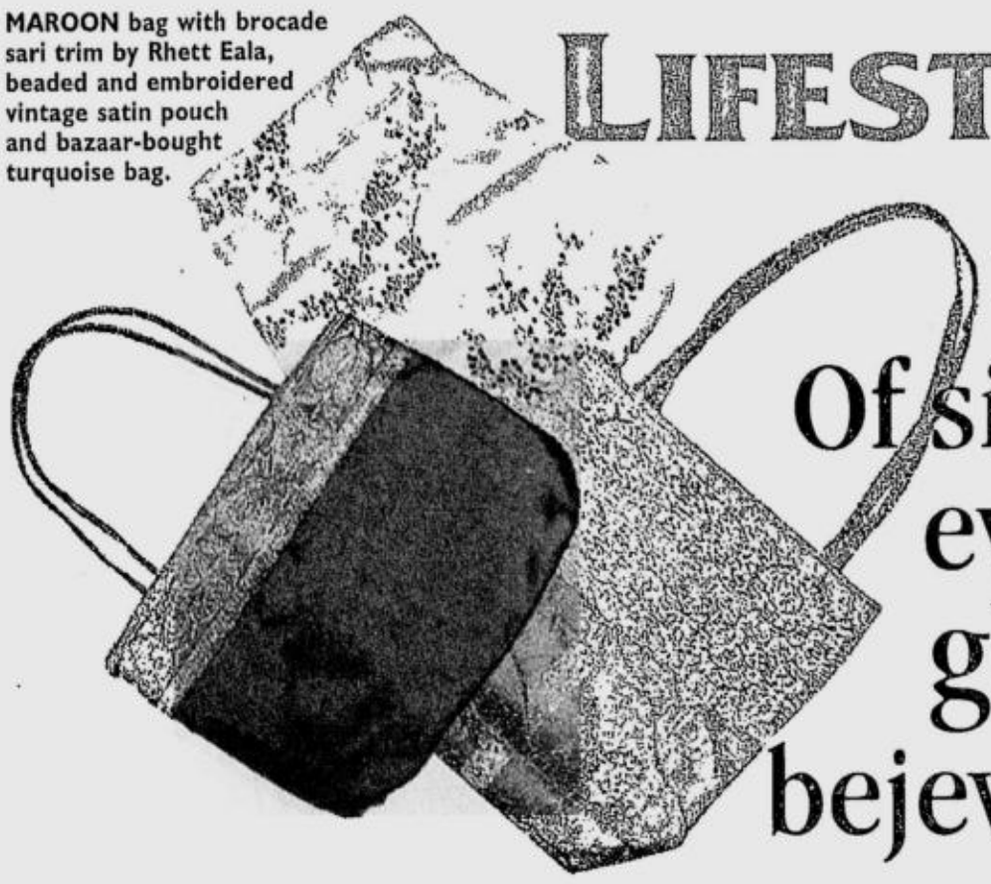
LIFESTYLE



MAROON bag with brocade sari trim by Rhett Eala, beaded and embroidered vintage satin pouch and bazaar-bought turquoise bag.

FASHION ADVICE

Of simple chic, evening glam and bejeweled men

Appearance is a powerful thing. I know sometimes people can't remember a word you've said, but can tell you exactly what you were wearing.—**Ann Richards**

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I'M currently applying for a marketing position at several consumer-related firms. What is the proper attire for my job interviews? Can you suggest some pieces and colors?

Your appearance is a most powerful form of communication, and whether you like it or not, you will be primarily judged based on your looks and how you present yourself. During interviews, how you dress can boost your confidence and your abilities, so it is a good idea to pay particular attention to your wardrobe and grooming.

So, how do you get the look that communicates success, competence and professionalism? Start with a bit of research. Find out if the company you are applying at has certain dress codes (try calling the company's human resources department for guidelines). If so, familiarize yourself with these codes and make sure you follow them to the letter. Generally, standard business outfits that are acceptable consist of a three-piece suit (skirt, blouse and blazer), a simple tailored dress, a long-sleeve blouse and skirt, or a tailored short-sleeve blouse and skirt. Modest dressing is another general rule that you must always keep in mind.

For your interviews, it is advisable to wear a well-cut jacket in a lightweight, wrinkle-free fabric and a neutral color with a matching knee-length pencil skirt and a crisp long-sleeve polo shirt. Remember to choose colors that complement your skin tone. Most Filipinas have yellow undertones and should therefore invest in clothes with warm, earth colors like brown, beige or tan. Navy blue, however, looks good on most women. Plus, it's professional and timeless. Your clothes must also fit well—not too tight and not too loose. A good fit ensures a neater, more elegant appearance.

Once you've chosen your outfit, accessorize with very simple and minimal jewelry. Pearl, gold or tiny diamond studs, a gold chain or a strand of pearls, a leather-strapped watch, a gold bracelet and a simple brooch are all acceptable, just not worn together at the same time. Pick several pieces that you can mix and match, but never pile them on. Next, wear nude-colored stockings and closed shoes or pumps in a neutral color like black or brown, with at least 1-½-inch heels. Avoid flat, clunky or high-heeled shoes. Use a matching leather tote to complete your attire. And emphasize your professional appearance by wearing subdued makeup and a hairstyle that is drawn away from the face.

Don't feel boxed in by all these rules. You can always inject your own personal style in subtle ways through your choice of clothing, color, accessories and even makeup. Just remember your new mantra: Simple chic is best.

I ALWAYS have a difficult time accessorizing my evening clothes. What is the rule of thumb when choosing evening bags and shoes? Must they always match?

There are no definite set of rules when choosing evening bags and shoes. Gone are the days when your purse and footwear have to be made of the same material and color. If our grandmothers had corresponding shoes and bags in every color of the rainbow, you can now survive with several basics that you can mix and match.

You can don a pair of unadorned black satin sandals, pumps, mules or sling-backs with a purse in a contrasting color or, perhaps, a bejeweled clutch bag. Gold or silver sandals can also be worn with bags in similar hues but various designs and textures created by beads, crystals, sequins and even whimsical feathers. Conversely, when you wear footwear that is more elaborate in style, like beaded shoes or strappy sandals with rhinestones, it is better to use a purse that is more minimal but still formal in design and material such as a plain satin clutch. Let one or the other item create a statement so you do not commit fashion overkill with too many clashing details. It is also fashionably sound to use tiny purses that can carry your evening-out-essentials such as a credit card, cash, cell phone, lipstick and oil-

OF SIMPLE/ p.E3

Correctly answer our riddles and take home ₱25,000 every week or the ₱1 Million Grand Prize. What's more, we'll even give you clues to help you solve the riddle so you have more chances of winning. So join now!

If you've got the smarts to correctly answer riddles then we've got mind-boggling prizes for you! We'll even give you clues to help you correctly answer them. Here's how it works: Solve the riddle in just one try or after 3 clues have been given, and you'll earn 5 points. If you're not able to solve the riddle after the 3 clues, you'll get 3 points. The more points you earn the more chances of winning ₱25,000 weekly, ₱50,000 monthly, or even the ₱1 million grand prize. And just to sweeten the deal, you also have a chance to win ₱100,000 for being the highest scorer of the promo. So get your brains in gear and join now!

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Not yesterday, not today, but will surely come anyway. *(t_m_r_o_) — You will then receive a riddle.

To answer a riddle question	Key in RIDDLE <question number> <answer> (Ex.: RIDDLE 1 TOMORROW)
To get instructions on how to use the service	Key in RIDDLE HELP

Send all keywords to 288. Text messages sent are ₱2.50 each. Promo period is from October 5 to December 27; 2002.

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MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

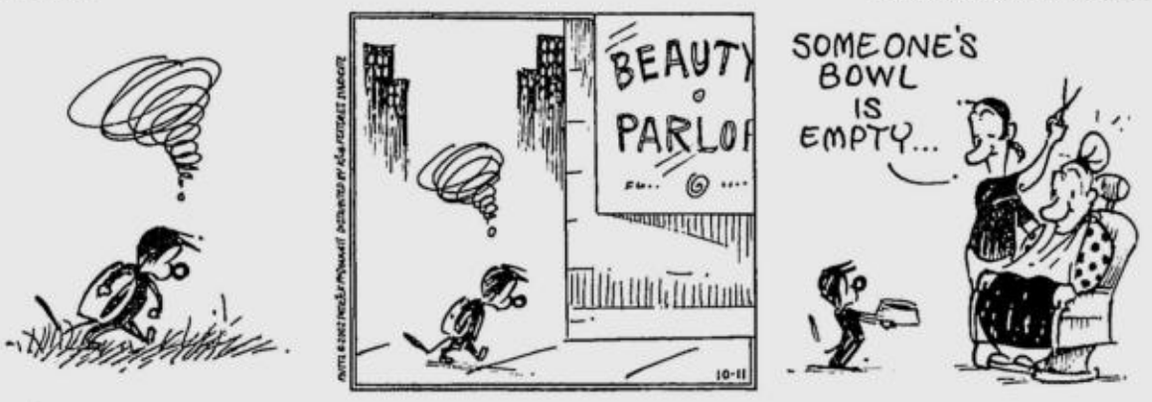
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BYPATRICK McDONNELL



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Luke Perry, Daryl Hall, Kellie Martin, Jerome Robbins, Joan Cusack

Happy Birthday: As long as you aren't impulsive, you will be lucky in love and wise with your investments this year. Hasty decisions will be your downfall. If you bide your time and let things unfold naturally, you will find yourself in a much better position. Your numbers are 7, 18, 25, 34, 37, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You should get out and mingle as much as possible either at social events or in groups that share similar interests. Lectures will open up doors as well as bring you information.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Watch your health and take care of your physical needs. Do not overspend. Use more imagination and ingenuity to beautify your living quarters.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Educational courses will turn into a form of entertainment for you. Learning will be stimulating and inspiring. You are likely to meet someone very special through students you befriend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The work you put into your house will help to increase its value. Try to do the labor yourself and save money. You may be undergoing some uncertainties regarding your mate. Talk about it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time for a new image. You can make physical improvements that will be recognized and admired by friends. You will make successful purchases if you go shopping.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend time sorting out the mess at home. Set yourself some priorities. You may want to check over your personal papers and make whatever changes are required.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your communication skills will bring you popularity and attract someone with whom you may be interested emotionally. Take your time and enjoy. Go out on the town or visit others as opposed to entertaining at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your thoughts will be on work and ways to make extra cash. Consider the possibility of your own small business. Talk to someone with experience in this area.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may find it difficult to deal with your emotions. All of a sudden you are in the mood to settle down, but you find it unnerving. You are a bit of a wanderer and you value your freedom, but give the relationship a chance.

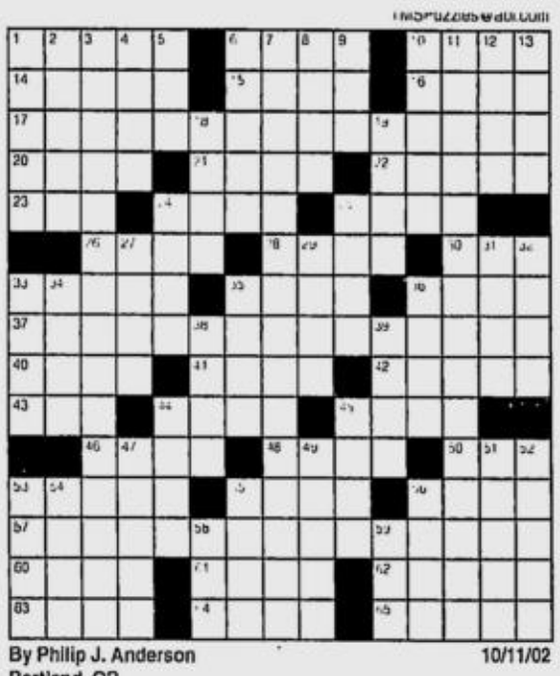
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't mix business with pleasure. Intimacies with clients or co-workers will only work against you in the long run. Don't reveal your private affairs to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Join groups that are concerned with self-improvement and physical enhancement. This way you create a support system for yourself that will make it easier. You should consider a club that will expand your circle of friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should be careful not to disclose personal information or there could be consequences. You may find yourself isolated if you have not been compassionate toward a friend who trusted you. Be understanding.

Birthday Baby: You will be a bit of a risk-taker and although you will usually land on your feet, it is certain that there will be times that you won't. Caution must be instilled in you right from day one.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/11/02

ACROSS
1 Former Turkish title
6 Org.
10 Several
14 Go in
15 RBI, e.g.
16 Enrage
17 Three back-ends?
20 Lose heat
21 Hilo garlands
22 Bob and Elizabeth
23 Printer liquid
24 "M*A*S*H" co-star
25 Obscene
26 MBA class
28 Anna of "Nana"
30 Fat farm
33 Capp's hero
35 Blueprint
36 Not at home
37 Three back-ends?
40 Fork prong
41 Attache, for one
42 Bowling alleys
43 Orangutan or gibbon
44 Kind of IRA
45 1976-80 Wimbledon champion
46 Quarrel
48 Criminal, to a cop
50 Holy cow!
53 Meat jelly
55 Sub shop
56 Perfect report card
57 Three back-ends?
60 Brownish purple
61 __ B'rith
62 "Skittle Players" painter
63 Visualizes
64 Marketed
65 Composer Grofe

DOWN
1 "GoodFellas" co-star
2 Writer Chekhov
3 Three back-ends?
4 Part of a shoe
5 Drummer Blakey
6 One of Jacob's sons
7 Three back-ends?
8 Pouchlike structures
9 Utmost degree
10 Pointer
11 Three back-ends?
12 Option word
13 Soaks
18 Celtic group
19 Idyllic garden
24 Fairway shout
25 Letterman's competition
27 Relinquish
29 London gallery
31 Stride
32 Nautical assents
33 Movie pooch
34 Radar image
35 Bog substance
36 Long way off
38 Man from Aberdeen
39 Failure
44 Risque
45 Panache
47 Hollow tubes
49 Spanish hero
51 Having paddles
52 "True Grit" star
53 Eurasian vipers
54 Twist sideways
55 Sean Connery movie
56 Add to the pot
58 Tummy muscles
59 Tampa sch.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	N	G		N	A	S	H		L	E	M	O	N
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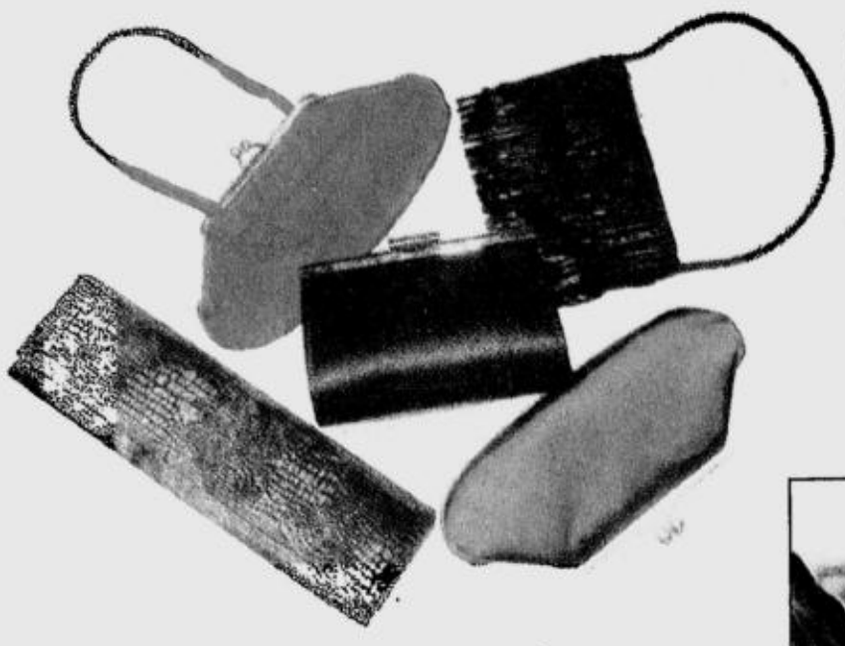
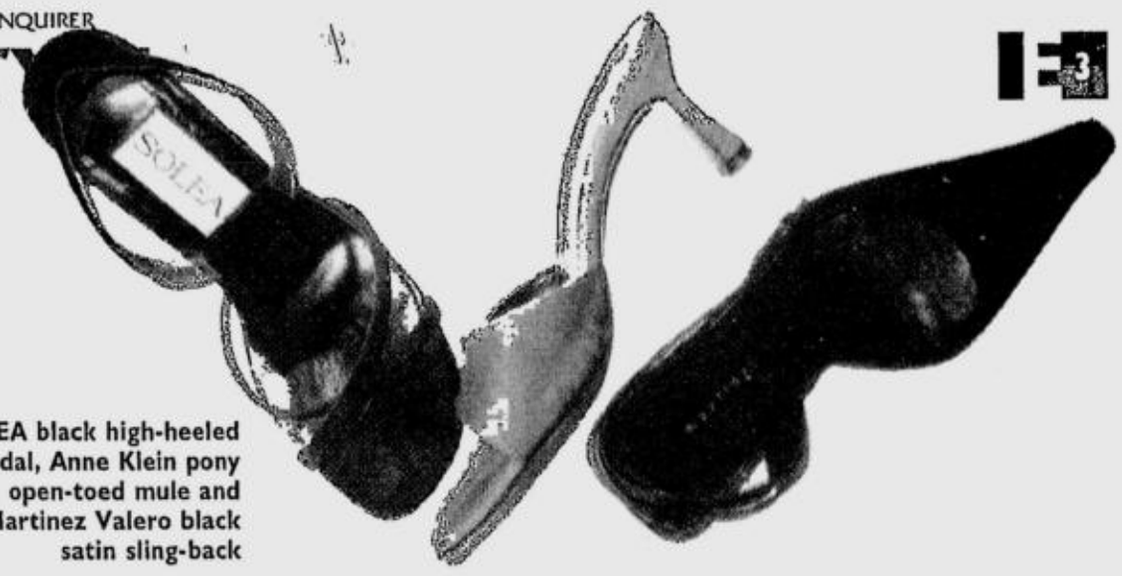
10/11/02



BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL. Stylish black and red bags in different designs may be worn with classic footwear in complementary hues.



SOLEA black high-heeled sandal, Anne Klein pony open-toed mule and Martinez Valero black satin sling-back

Of simple chic, evening glam and bejeweled men

From page E1

control film.

To create a look that's all your own, check out the bazaars and flea markets for inexpensive but unusual beaded, printed or tasseled bags. Or you can have shoes and bags especially made for you by certain suppliers like Lila Almario, who has an existing boutique in the Power Plant Mall, Emi Jorge of Solea or Wilson's, to name a few. It may take some time and cost a little more to have these items custom-made, but it's well worth the wait and extra expense as you end up with shoes and bags that you love and that suit your personality.

IS it ok for men to wear jewelry? What kind of jewelry is appropriate for a 20-year-old? What about a 30-year-old?

Unless you are Mr. T of the A-team or Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs (now known as P. Diddy, or J. Lo's ex), lay off the heavy metal! Nothing is more unbecoming than a man bedecked in shiny, ostentatious, ornate jewelry. Heavy gold chains, rings and bracelets, especially when worn together, are not very flattering regardless of age.

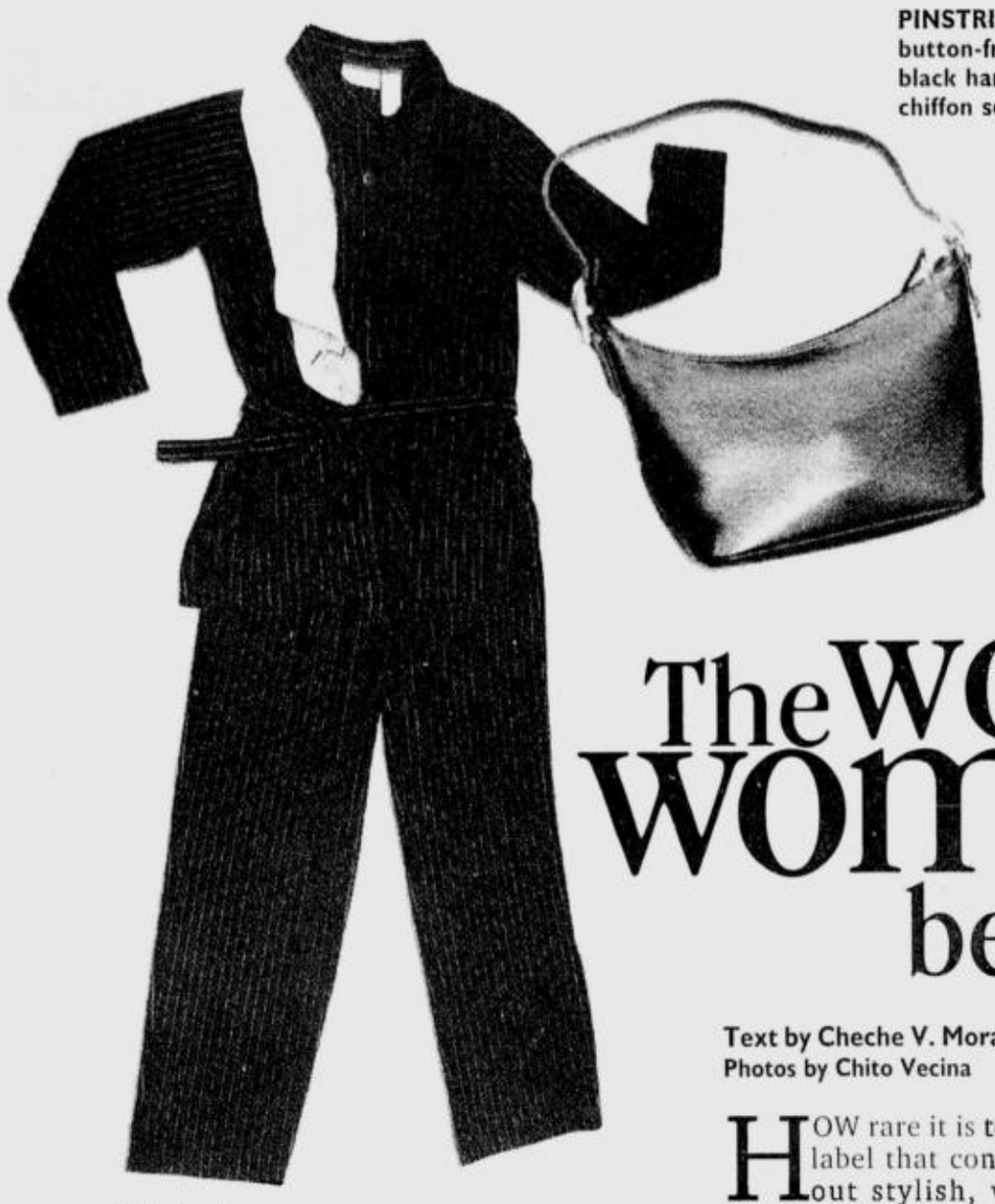
This doesn't mean that you can't enjoy the latest trends in jewelry for men. You can still wear certain pieces that are simple, subtle and unobtrusive. Amador Madamba, FHM fashion editor and freelance fashion stylist, says, "It's okay for men to wear jewelry, but not too much. A simple necklace or bracelet in leather or silver will do. Gold is too flashy."

There are various styles out in the market that are apt for men in their 20s, 30s and beyond. Besides leather and silver, a rubber cord combined with silver and used as a bracelet or necklace is another trendy option. White gold is also quite popular. Ana Mauricio, assistant manager of Bvlgari boutique, says that a number of men buy jewelry for their own use. Most saleable are bracelets and rings in white gold or a combination of white and yellow gold. Ana adds, "It's appropriate

OF SIMPLE/ p.E8

MARTINEZ Valero bronze high-heeled sandal, maroon sandal with brocade sari accent designed by Rhett Eala and matte gold mule by Sarrer

GOLD RUSH. Match these dazzling purses with simple and unadorned evening shoes in similar golden tones.



PINSTRIPE trousers (P4,580), matching button-front belted jacket (P5,280), black handbag (P1,280) and yellow silk chiffon scarf (P880)

DENIM vest in baked apple (P3,080), three-quarter-sleeve tee (P1,980) and denim paisley-print wrap skirt (P3,880)

The working woman's best friend

Liz Claiborne swears to one formula: relieving the working woman of the tedium of choosing what to wear for the day

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

HOW rare it is to find a clothing label that consistently churns out stylish, well-made and timeless pieces that last beyond a season. Small wonder then that Liz Claiborne, a longtime proponent of reliable clothes for working women, has remained a top choice. Even better, the brand now carries chic weekend casuals, sportswear and dressy after-work wear to cater to the many facets of a woman's life.

True to its classic orientation, this fall, Liz Claiborne sticks to traditional silhouettes with enticing twists. There's a mélange of bright colors to offset the quintessential neutrals. Weathered and antiqued soft denims with ultra-feminine knits and lace-trimmed tops dominate the Lizwear Jeans line. Pinstripes, paisleys, stripes, florals and bold geometric prints characterize Lizsport. The theme is repeated throughout the Liz & Co. line, where suedes and ribbed knits take the upper hand.

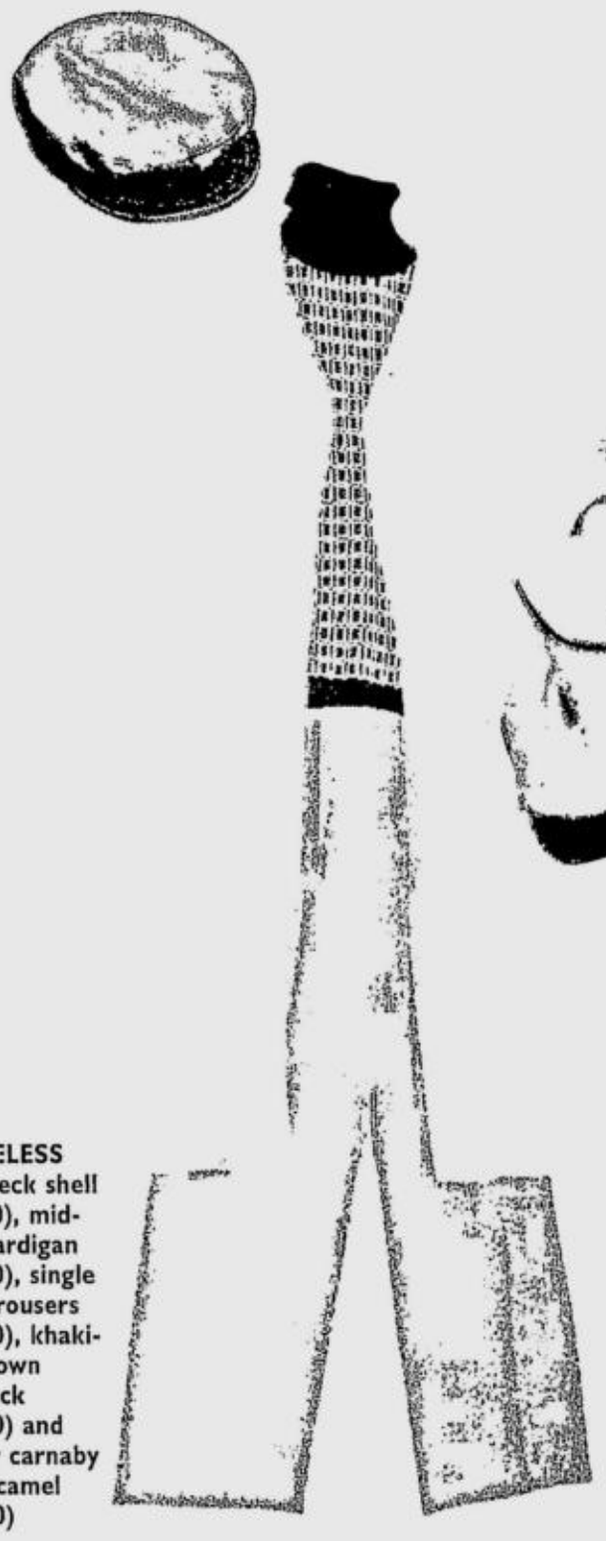
Liz Claiborne is a mellifluous meeting of chic-ness and wearability. The label knows how busy women like to look good, but it also acknowledges how they detest the labor of picking out pieces to mix and match. Effortless layering is the simple solution—bare the arms in the warm outdoors, then slip into a nice long-sleeve shirt or jacket when the air-conditioned indoors get a tad too nippy.

"Liz Claiborne clothes are updated classics," says Celia B. Elumba, general merchandise manager of Igedo Fashions Inc., exclusive distributor of the label in the Philippines. Traditional silhouettes are infused with trendy colors and reworked with proportions and details dictated by the seasons.

Liz Claiborne's style may not be cutting edge, perhaps even conservative. But that's its appeal, says Elumba. "It's not 'disposable' fashion," she adds. "You don't discard the clothes after six months because they've outlived their novelty and freshness." They stay on and remain reliable constants in a woman's wardrobe season after season.

The brand has also adopted a new technology that makes its clothes wrinkle-free and stain-resistant.

Now isn't that just what a sensible woman needs?



SLEEVELESS turtleneck shell (P3,280), mid-knee cardigan (P5,680), single pleat trousers (P5,280), khaki-and-brown backpack (P2,680) and leather carnaby cap in camel (P2,680)

CREWNECK striped tee (P1,780), black leather carnaby cap (P2,880), black backpack (P2,680) and black cords pants

WHITE gypsy shirt (P3,280), tank top (P1,980), floral capris (P3,480) and red handbag (P1,280)

LONG-SLEEVE floral shirt (P5,280), orange tank top (P1,980), ankle pants with side slits (P3,880) and Via Venetto sandals

SWEETHEART-NECK striped top (P1,980), appliquéd denim pants (P3,880) and cropped denim jacket with suede cuffs and collar

FLORAL shirt in light grape wine (P3,880), tank top in camouflage (P1,980), grape wine pants (P3,280) and Xxtra slides

BELTED trouser skirt in khaki (P6,380), mock neck top, red silk chiffon scarf (P880) and Ferragamo handbag

HALTER top (P2,680), black pants (P3,880), Via Venetto sandals and Ferragamo handbag

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FOR MECHANICS See posters or inquire from any Mr. Wash outlet for more details ! Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2660. Series of 2002.

ALL CLOTHES FROM LIZ CLAIBORNE (3/L SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL AND 2/F GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER)

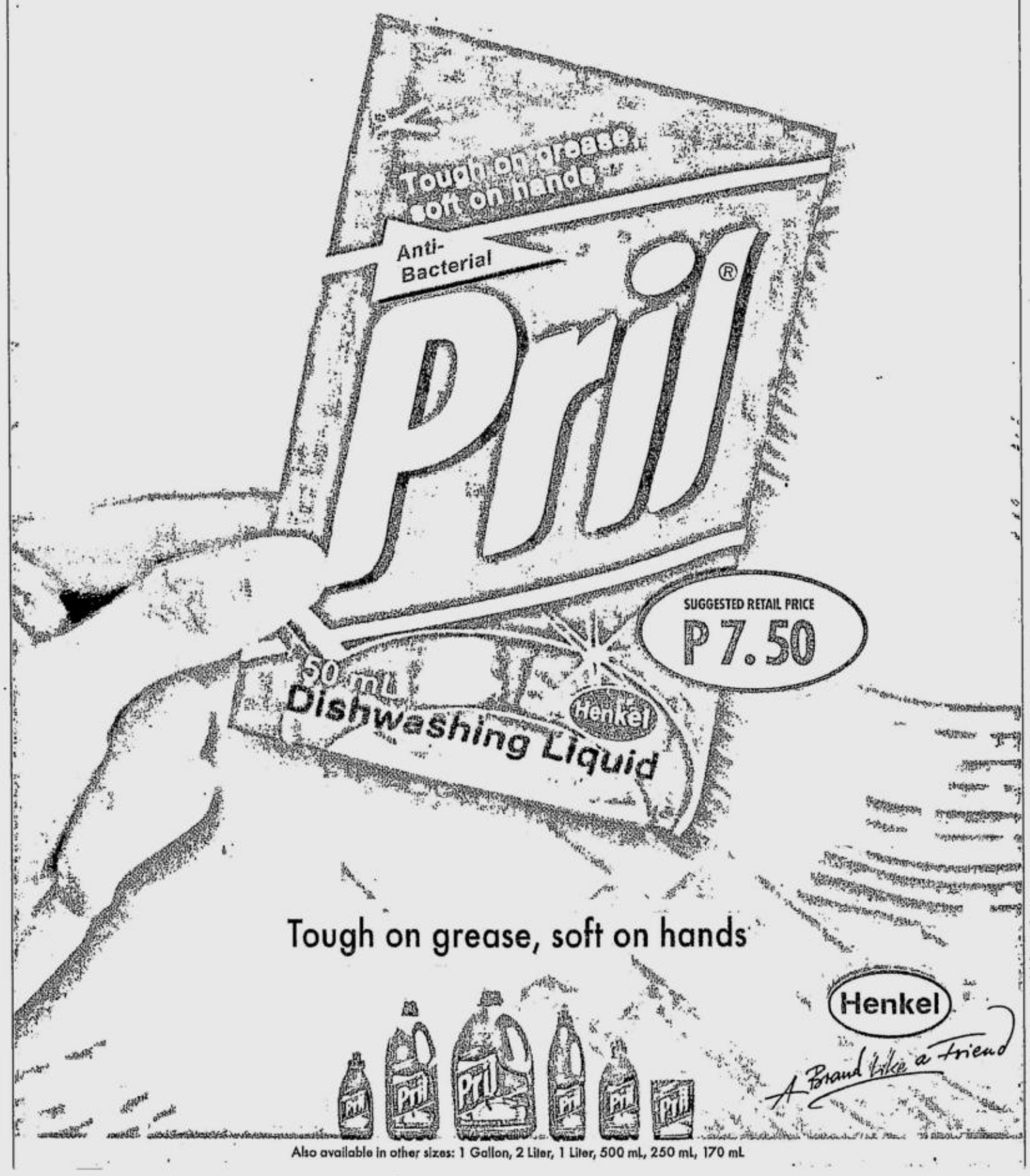
BAGS FROM LIZ CLAIBORNE AND FERRAGAMO (POWER PLANT MALL, GREENBELT 1, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, RUSTANS TOWER, RUSTAN'S MAKATI AND RUSTAN'S CEBU)

CAPS AND SCARVES FROM LIZ CLAIBORNE

SHOES FROM VIA VENETTO (GREENBELT MALL, GLORIETTA 1, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, SM CITY ANNEX AND SM MEGAMALL), XXTRA (SM LADIES SHOES DEPARTMENTS) AND FERRAGAMO

RETRO floral long-sleeve shirt (P3,880), lightweight stretch denim blazed in mock indigo (P5,280), matching pants (P3,880), blue Ferragamo satchel and pumps

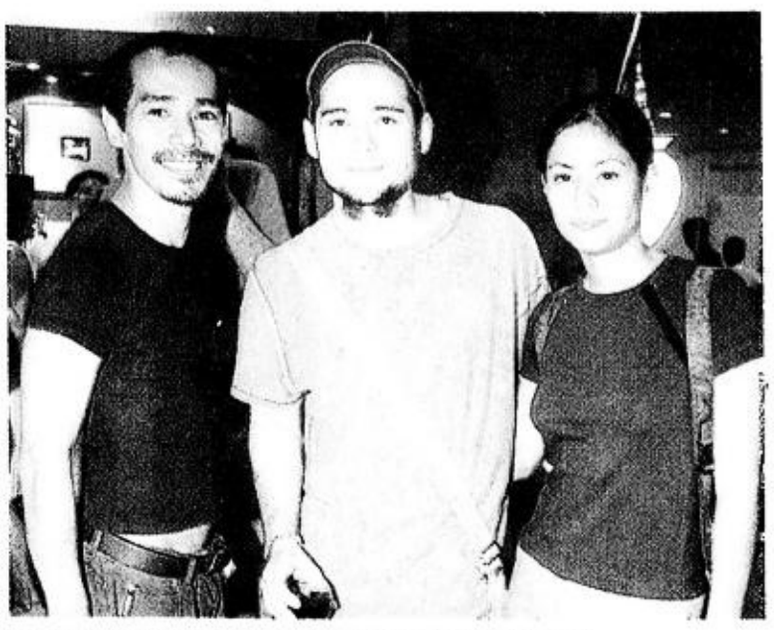
Tipid na tipid
sa **New** Pril 50 mL sachet!



Also available in other sizes: 1 Gallon, 2 Liter, 1 Liter, 500 mL, 250 mL, 170 mL

CORY Quirino, Jeannie Goulbourn, Sari Yap and Tina Quiambao

RICKY Toledo with Ayala Land's Winnie Nazareth and Myrna Fernandez



PAOLO Basa, Ryan Eigenmann and Reema Chanco

Furnishings and accessories store gets Makati address

FIRMA façade at the ground floor of Greenbelt 3

MARCO Lobregat, Erlinda Guanzon and Maripi Muscat

MANDY Dela Rama and Tessa Prieto

FIRMA, the well-known Malate house of interior furnishings, fine art, jewelry and accessories, recently opened its second store at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.

Chito Vijandre, Ricky Toledo, Markus Schmidt and Richard Danao celebrated the opening with their clients and friends at a cocktail reception at the main lobby, which was transformed into an elegant salon washed in acquarelle strokes of light created by light and sound consultant Cocoy Puyat. Harpist Holly Paraiso played music ranging from Handel to Led Zepellin. On the menu were French and Moroccan hors d'oeuvres by Fidel's Bambi Sy Gobio.

Enjoying the party were Ayala Land's Winnie Nazareth, Myrna Fernandez and Cathy Bengzon; Tony and Mariella Cancio of Café Breton; and Anton Barreto, Leah Puyat, Ana Katigbak and Anjalette Calero of Pineapple. Loyal Firma clients Johnny Velasquez, Maripi Muscat and Erlinda Guanzon, checked Vijandre's couture jeweled pillows. Josephine Knox could not resist the Proud Mary bags. Tessa Prieto-Valdes admired the treasures from Nepal. Mandy dela Rama Santos loved the rare, Tibetan tantric paintings, while Leica Carpo raved about Gemma Suzara's Renaissance meets the '50s jewelry. Tats Manahan and daughter Juana Manahan admired the purses by Gigi de Jonghe. Film director Don Escudero praised the French Indochine Art Deco furniture and the luxe line of ostrich egg and sterling accoutrements by Schmidt.

Also present were interior designers Jim Tan, J.Antonio Mendoza and Jonathan Matti, and Cory Quirino and Jeannie Goulbourn.

Also there were Aya Perez, JR Isaac, Angelo Villanueva and Steven Lovina, Edward Keller's Andreas Brechbuhl and Jacqueline Rohrbach Brechbuhl.

Karla Delgado came with her mother Peachy Prieto, who praised the jewelry of Wynn Wynn Ong. Chelo Zamora examined the new pieces, which Firma Greenbelt store managers Wing Chanco and Kitten Zamora showed her.

MALU Gamboa and Leica Carpo

Designer Mike de la Rosa and Paolo Basa huddled together with editors of leading lifestyle magazines: Anton San Diego of Philippine Tatler, Sari Yap and Liza Ilarde Cuenca of Mega, and Freida Dario and Carlo Tadiar of Metro.

Celebrity makeup artist's own line

Part 2

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

LAURA Mercier. Personal celebrity friend: Madonna. In fact, her lipstick, "M," was made specifically for Madonna. Celine Dion is known to have said that she uses the entire Laura Mercier line in makeup. I have to confirm about the skin care. Laura is also Susan Sarandon's personal makeup artist.

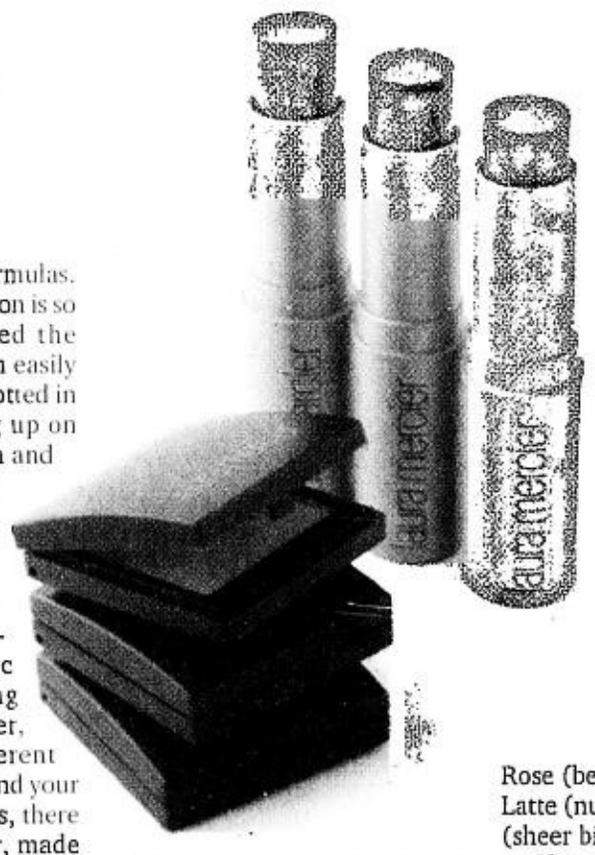
Contribution to makeup industry. This Frenchwoman started her line in 1996 and is most known for her VHS tape "The Flawless Finish." This is the ultimate in the perfect skin effect.

Step 1: Primer Power. This Foundation Primer is reflected with light-reflecting ingredients and extracts that hydrate the face to create a smooth layer that maintains fresh-looking makeup for hours. Comment: If your own skin-care regimen achieves the smooth and hydrated feeling, this is enough to make your foundation go on smoothly. I felt no need for the primer, as my skincare products already give this effect. It may also feel too heavy for those with oily skin like mine. Very dry and/or aging skin will benefit from this immensely as it plumps up lines and smooths out dry patches.

Step 2: Fabulous Foundation. Primarily yellow-based and has a unique ingredient that gives the optical illusion of smooth flawless skin naturally. It comes in oil-free (for normal to oily) and moisturizing (dry skin) formulas. The quality of the foundation is so good that I did not need the primer to make it blend in easily and evenly. Oprah was spotted in Neiman Marcus stocking up on Laura Mercier Foundation and says she "can't live without them."

Step 3: Secret Camouflage. This radical concealer evens out skin tone and conceals blemishes. This has a specific brush made for blending this radical face concealer, which includes two different shades so you will really find your skin match. For the eyes, there is the Secret Concealer, made more emollient specifically for the eye area. Comment: I keep coming across these two in beauty magazines. The former are favorites of Winona Ryder, Sarah Jessica Parker, Angelina Jolie and Cher. It covered my pimple marks and red capillaries.

Step 4: Powder. Formulated with cashmere talc, LM setting powder is ultra sheer, creates a clean, refined finish and sets makeup. Available in loose and pressed. Comment: It eliminates shine but does not crease into wrinkles and fine lines. Cameron Diaz, Janet Jackson and Gwyneth Paltrow use them.



The VHS tape will hopefully be available by late October or November. It is a very good buy, as Laura demonstrates makeup techniques, too. The women in the video are of different ethnicities, like African, Chinese, Caucasian, Hispanic etc. She takes into account their personalities and puts on makeup that will suit their lifestyle.

Other famous products: Lipstick shades that end with "lips" are a sheer tint formula. Most in demand are Healthy lips (Julia Roberts, Catherine Zeta Jones, Heather Locklear), Baby lips (Mariah Carey, Glenn Close), Just lips (Susan Sarandon, Shalom Harlow). I recommend: Tea Rose (beige-pink shimmer), Café Latte (nude brown), Healthy Lips (sheer bitten lips effect).

Cheek sticks. I recommend Raisin (a mid-mauve).

Eyeshadows. Her eyeshadows are highly pigmented and last forever without creasing. The four brushes available for them are labeled and shaped to make them idiot-proof. I was able to come up with the elaborate film-noir eyes look on my own without a pro's aid. My favorite among the brushes are the flat eyeliner brush, Secret Camouflage, angled eye color brush, eyebrow brush.

Secret Concealer. Covered my undereye shadows and is so easy to blend in. Made me look so awake and alive but still makeup-free. If your budget could only choose one between the secret camouflage for the rest of the face or the secret concealer for the eye area, I suggest you blend a tiny amount of light eye cream onto your hand while mixing it with your Secret Camouflage shade to make it glide easier on the eye area. Mixing it on the hand prevents product contamination, and heat from the hand makes the color set.

For Fall 2002 her motif is "Film Noir," reminiscent of stars such as Hedy Lamarr, Vivien Leigh and Marlene Dietrich. Old Hollywood Glamour calls for smoky dark eyes and rich, dark red, luscious lips. The look is a mix of glamour, mystery and seduction.

Take charge of your money

You're walking through the mall when you see this smiling woman approach you, offering a credit card membership with the inevitable come-on, "Ma'am, no annual fee on the first year!" "Fantastic! What a great deal," you say to yourself. But is it really? This may sound cynical but you've got to remember credit card companies don't give away their cards out of the goodness of their hearts.

The way to shop for a credit card is the way you shop for most things – look for the brand that gives you the most value for every peso you spend. Below is a guide that will help you find out which card actually helps you save money and take charge of your finances.

Understanding finance or interest charges

There may be times when you'll need to defer or pay only part of the total amount due on your credit card bill *(Among credit card companies, if you defer payment, you're called a revolver. If you pay the full amount, you're a transactor.)* It's standard practice among all credit cards to charge interest on the amount you defer payment on. What isn't standard is the rate. BPI Express Credit Card has the lowest at 2.9% while most of the other credit cards have interest at anywhere from 3.25% to 3.5%.

How is monthly interest computed? By posting/transaction date or statement date?

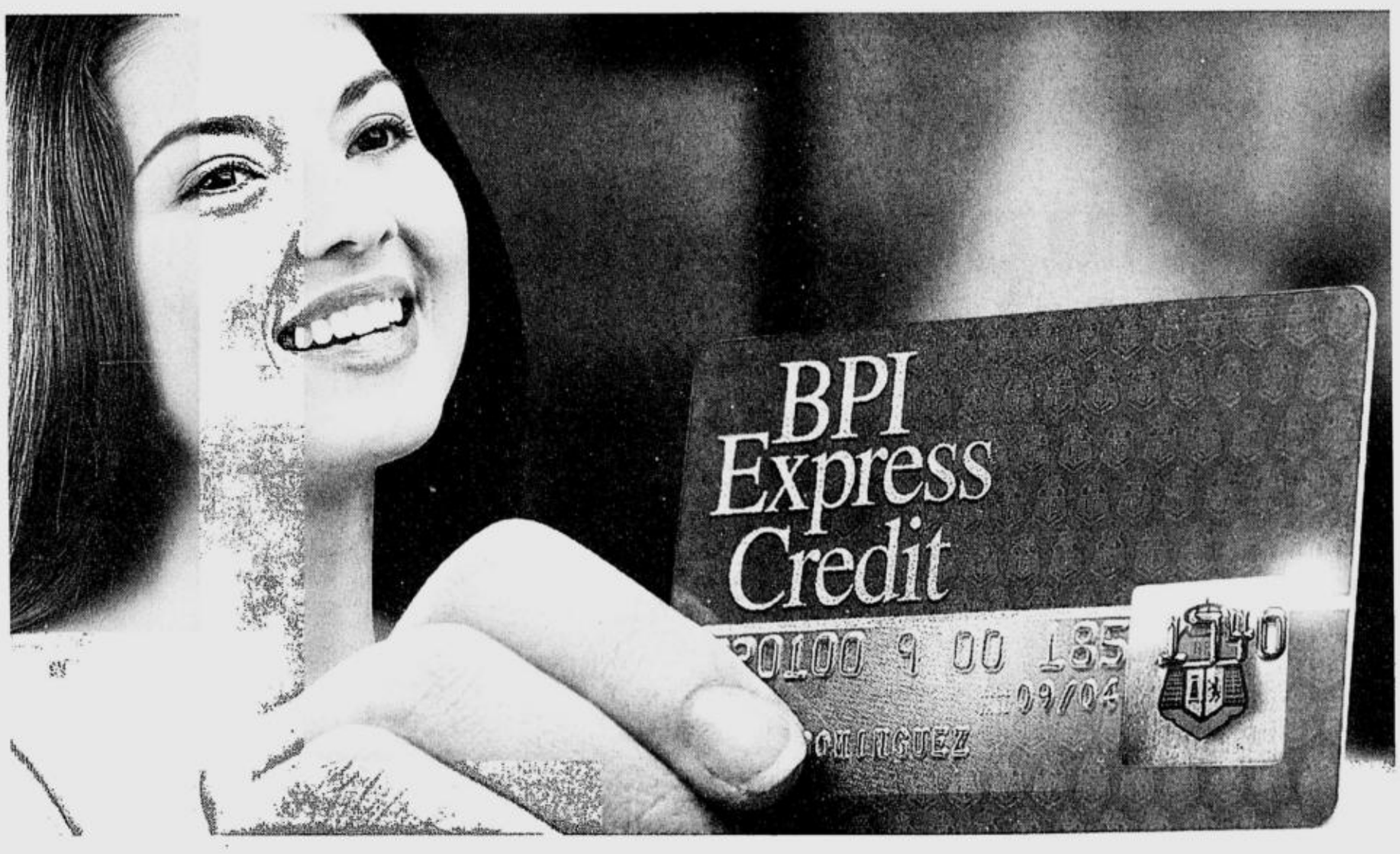
Choose a credit card that computes interest on statement date as it will save you days of interest charges.

Here's how you can save with BPI Express Credit Card's 2.9% interest rate computed on statement date. To illustrate:

Scenario:

Credit Limit		₱70,000.00
Outstanding Balance Last Statement	Sept. 5	₱28,500.00
New Purchases This Statement	Oct. 5	₱40,000.00
Total Outstanding This Statement	Oct. 5	₱68,500.00

Post Date	No. of Days to Statement Date	Transaction Amount	INTEREST COMP. Other credit cards (3.25% from posting date)	INTEREST COMP. BPI Express Credit Card (2.9% from statement date)
Sept. 6	31	₱ 20,000.00	₱ 671.67	ZERO
Sept.10	27	10,000.00	292.50	ZERO
Sept.15	22	2,000.00	47.67	ZERO
Sept. 20	17	5,000.00	92.08	ZERO
Sept. 25	12	3,000.00	39.00	ZERO
		Total	₱1,142.92	ZERO
Interest on Outstanding Balance (₱28,500)			₱926.25	₱826.50
Total Interest			₱2,069.17	₱826.50
Amount saved for the month			ZERO	₱1,242.67



So if you want to save yourself from a lot of grief and save yourself some money, choose a credit card with the lowest interest rate and one that computes interest based on the statement date, like BPI Express Credit Card.

Deferred payment vs installment-what's the difference?

Both are really just payment options you can use to help manage your cash flow. When you choose to pay only part of the total monthly bill on your credit card, you're deferring payment. Getting an item on installment means deciding from the outset that you will pay for that item over time; BPI Credit Card terms range from 3 months to 24 months with a fixed monthly interest rate.

Special Installment Plan (SIP)

You want a credit card that's really industrious about setting up year-long events and sales. And nobody beats BPI Express Credit Card when it comes to madness events or the range of goods and services available. Everything from appliances and travel to furniture and tuition - there's practically nothing you can't get with BPI's SIP (Special Installment Plan).

Loyalty programs

The major credit cards have loyalty programs that reward you for using your card where every purchase earns you points which you accumulate and exchange later on for a range of gift/s. The problem is most of them have incredibly high purchase requirements to get a gift. With some programs, you need a minimum of ₱120,000 to ₱160,000 worth of purchases before you can start redeeming your points for rewards. BPI's Frequent User Privileges program has the lowest purchase requirement. Every purchase worth ₱ 25 earns you 1 point. You also get a wider selection of gifts - over 300 items covering everything from leather goods, appliances, educational items, office equipment to sports gear, gift certificates, travel and more. And best of all, the points requirements for the gifts in BPI's Frequent User Privileges are a lot lower. You can start redeeming your gifts with only ₱40,000 worth of cumulative spending on your BPI Express Credit Card. It's like getting a portion of your money back whenever you purchase.

Get more savings at all Ayala Malls

Get discounts and earn Ayala Discount Plus points when you use your BPI Express Credit Card at all participating Ayala Discount Plus establishments at all Ayala Malls - Makati, Alabang and Cebu. Carrying a BPI Express Credit Card is like carrying an Ayala Discount Plus card.

And BPI Express Credit Card still gives you more! It's the only card accepted at Glorietta 4 parking. Simply present your card to the cashier and in one swipe you can go. And BPI Express Credit Card is the only credit card accepted at all branches of Pilipinas Makro.

Just as important as knowing what to look for in a credit card is knowing how to properly use your credit card. As a service to its cardholders, both present and future, BPI Credit Card is pleased to provide the following card management tips.

Using your statement as a budgeting tool. There are some card users who charge all their expenses – gas, groceries, everything – to their card. According to them, the advantage of doing so is you can see where your money's going in one handy and convenient statement versus having to wade through a tabletop full of receipts.

While most card companies are obsessive-compulsive about the accuracy and veracity of their statements, it's best to **keep all the receipts of all your transactions** for reconciling with your monthly statement.

It's also important to compare your credit card purchases to your monthly income. In general, your **total monthly bills shouldn't exceed 50% of your monthly income.** If you want your credit history to remain good over time, you need to be prepared for unplanned expenses.

Security. Keep a record of your credit card account numbers, their expiry dates and the phone and fax numbers of their Call Centers. Be sure to keep this record in a safe place. In case you lose your card, having this record gives you extra security and helps prevent unauthorized use of your card in the quickest possible time.

It does the unheard-of among credit cards. It helps you save.

LOWEST MONTHLY INTEREST RATES

Save every month
BPI Express Credit Card has the lowest monthly interest - only 2.9%. And BPI computes interest charges based on the statement date and not on posting date - saving you several days of interest payment.

CARD PRICE EQUALS CASH PRICE

Save on appliance purchases
You pay absolutely no surcharge when you use your BPI Express Credit Card at major appliance stores. It's the only credit card that's as good as cash.

S.I.P.

Save with SIP
All the big-budget goodies you want, from appliances and travel to tuition and furniture, become payable in easy-to-manage installment terms at low interest rates.

AYALA MALLS DISCOUNT

Save at all Ayala Mall stores
Get discounts and earn Ayala Discount Plus points when you use your BPI Express Credit Card at participating Glorietta, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Cebu stores.

BPI Credit Cards
FREQUENT USER PRIVILEGES

You not only save, you win big!
Because every ₱25 purchase on your BPI Express Credit Card earns you a point in BPI's Frequent User Privileges promo. The more you use your BPI Express Credit Card, the closer you get to your dream gift.

Take charge now. Choose the most sensible credit card to carry. BPI Express Credit Card.

Apply for a BPI Express Credit Card and get a chance to win a Ford Sport Trac. Visit any BPIor BPI Family Bank branch or www.bpiexpressonline.com. For BPI depositors, call 89-100 to apply.

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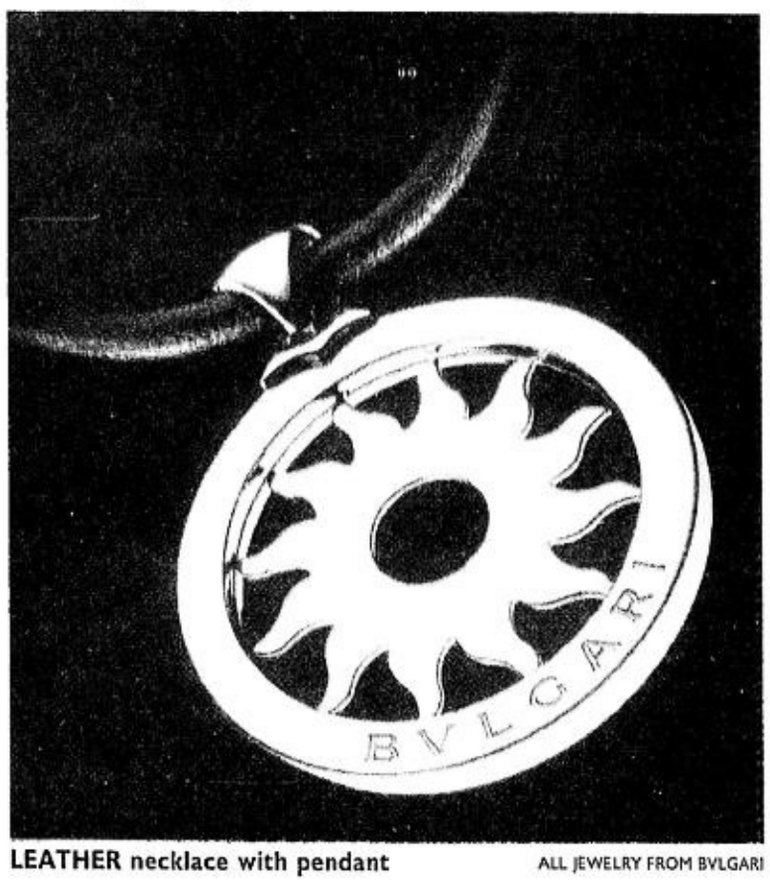


LEATHER necklace with pendant

ALL JEWELRY FROM BVLGARI

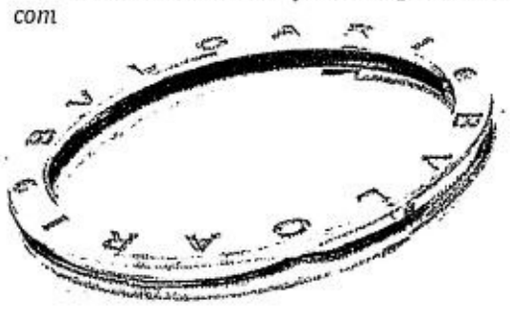
Of simple chic, evening glam and bejeweled men

From page E3

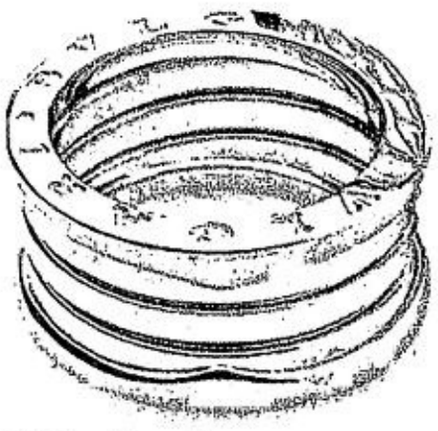
for men to wear jewelry. For younger men, a ring, bracelet and maybe a small pendant on a chain worn separately will look stylish. It really all depends on the individual. Just don't wear anything too flashy or too big."

Take your profession into consideration when choosing jewelry. If you work in a conservative corporate environment, bear in mind that a wedding or school ring, a watch, a tie clip and a discreet necklace or bracelet are the only acceptable pieces in a man's professional wardrobe. In this case, err on the side of caution and reserve your other pieces for dressed-down weekends or trendy nights-out.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



BRACELET in white and yellow gold



RING in white gold

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Sports enthusiasts can visit Sports Basic, which offers a mix of sports equipment and trendy apparel at affordable prices. One can buy Airwalk rubber shoes for only P500.

The Nike store offers sports apparel like shorts for as low as P105. One can also buy golf shorts for P600 each. Women's Presto Gym shoes are now P3,300, from its original price of P4,400.

Fusion is the home of Skechers and No Fear. Teens and preppies can check out their favorite sports shoes for as low as P695. There are also cool items sold at P100.

Converse USA offers off-the-rack footwear and sports apparel for as low as P300.

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LIFESTYLE

Trend watch

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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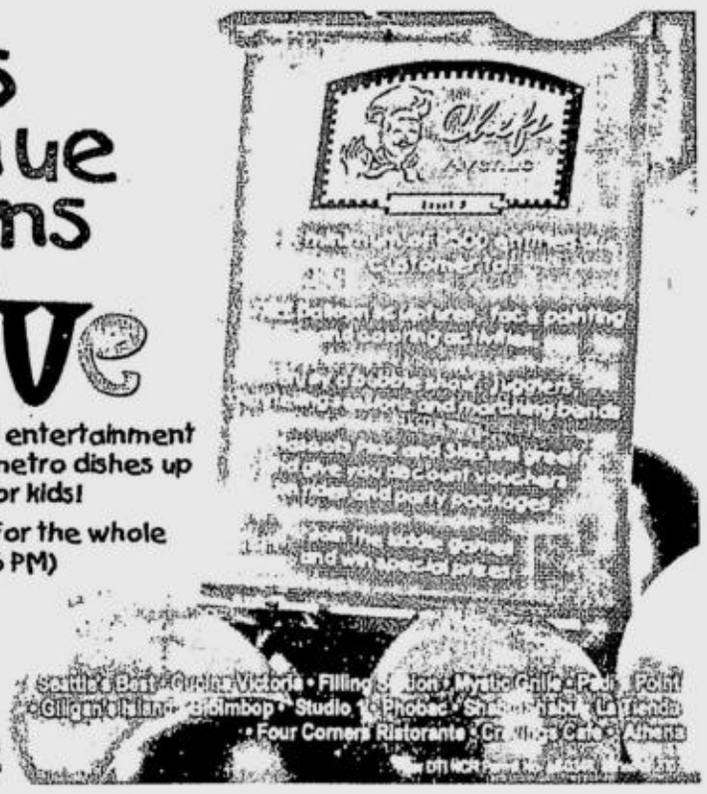


You can't diet away and keep your hair

A BEAUTIFUL young account executive in our office, and many other beautiful young women, made me finally tackle dieting and hair—two top concerns that people forget are closely related. I was surprised that many women still don't know that the wrong diet can damage the hair.

This pretty AE, whose long shiny hair is easily her best asset, told me that since she started dieting (she has a great body, by the way, but you know how it is), meaning cutting down on meals, so much of her hair seemed to go whenever she brushed it. Could it be the wrong shampoo, she wondered. Could be, I said in an impromptu "consultation" at lunch. We're never really certain just how strong the chemicals are in those products, and how their regular use wears down our hair, gradually and unnoticeably until it's really damaged.

LIFE-STYLE

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I asked her how she dieted. Typically, it was basically eating less or hardly eating at all, which meant losing out on nutrients. She was getting sexier all right, but her hair was also beginning to fall out.

When it came to vanities, there are two that most women will slave for: their figure and hair. Unfortunately, in this case, you can't have your cake and eat it too—meaning you can't diet away and keep your hair thick and healthy.

I'm speaking from experience, although I was able to correct it in the nick of time, so I'm sharing this with women as young as in their 20s. My first attempt at dieting was right after my first pregnancy; it was successful and in a way correct because my weight loss wasn't drastic. My newsroom colleagues, many of us first-time mothers, collectively went on the Scarsdale diet: very rich in protein and very low in carbo. It was the "in" diet in the '80s and perhaps was right for us who were in our 20s. Over many months, we got our desired weight, which we were able to maintain.

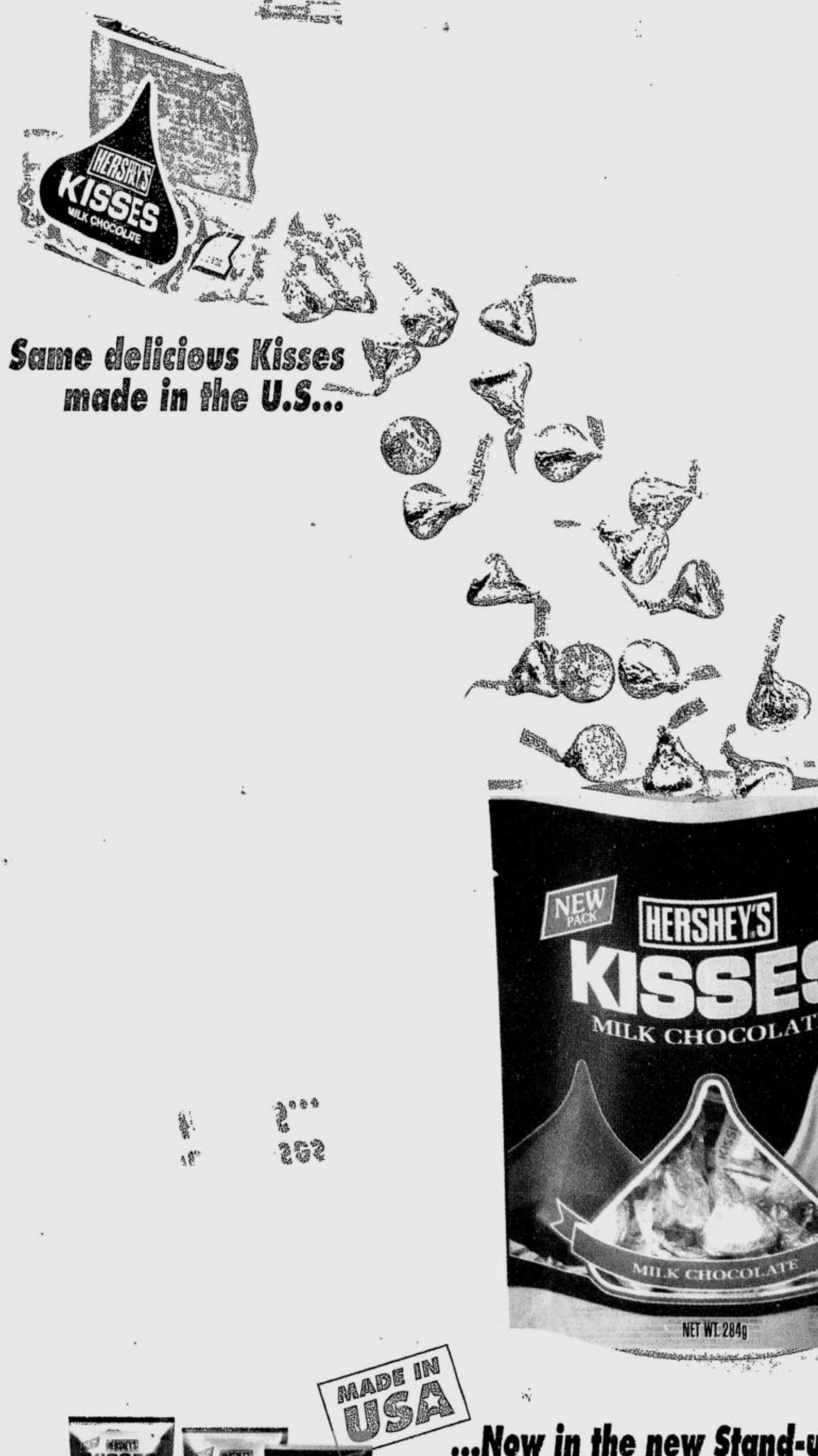
On hindsight, however, a super-high protein diet like we had (we gorged ourselves on chicken and steak) was tolerated by our young bodies then, but had we had them much later, our organs, kidneys especially, would have been terribly overworked. We'd learn this in time as medical research yielded more findings about dieting.

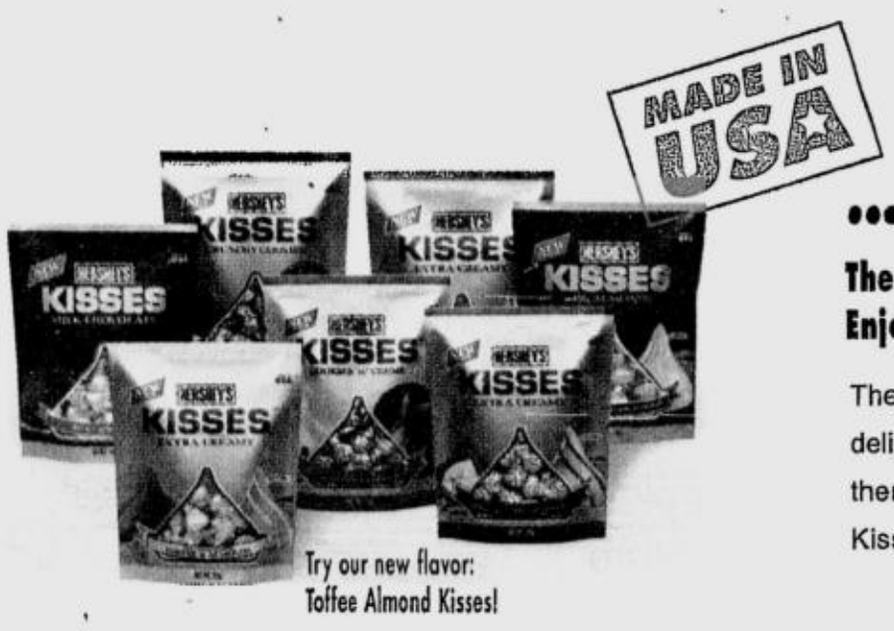
Young as we were, we didn't suffer hair loss. I went on other diets after that whenever a PR, wanting to place her press release, would comment graciously how pretty I looked pregnant even if, in fact, I wasn't (pregnant, that is). These were always diets supervised by a slimming center's nutritionists who religiously counted our calories, when daily calorie count was the popular gauge of weight loss. So I don't think I suffered from hair loss then.

In my 30s, however, I noticed that my hair was no longer as thick as it was. It was then that I noted what **Tingting Cojuangco** had just told me—that she had been taking hair supplements (zinc, for one) since she was 18, daily, no fail. Eighteen! Falling hair is the farthest from an 18-year-old's list of vanity fears. Dull hair, yes, but thinning hair? Remote. Yet Tingting was conscious of that asset of hers even before she could have children. The result, as everyone knows, is evident to this day. Her long, thick, glossy hair is easily one of Tingting's trademarks.

So even as early as then, I adopted Tingting's regimen of hair supplements, religiously through the years. The more I cut down on my food intake, the more hair/skin supplements I

YOU/ p.F2





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HERSHEY'S
CHOCOLATE LIKE NO OTHER

You can't diet away and keep your hair

From page F1

take—usually biotin, zinc and other vitamins—every day. (It's really tough to keep a well-balanced diet daily, thus the supplements.)

When friends, who have been on Xenical and other fat-busters for long periods, complain to me that their hair seems to be thinning as their bodies get thinner, I tell them, what do you expect? You can't be passing out fat and starving your body of nutrients, without making your hair and skin suffer. You're no longer 18.

Young mothers especially, who are into giving birth, must stay on hair supplements.

Now I tell even younger girls to take vitamins and supplements good for their hair—daily. Hair growth is, of course, genetic: your hair will be as lush or as sparse as your mom's and dad's. However, this is still reason for you to give your hair the right amount of nutrients, no matter how young you are. I always tell my staff, who are only in their 20s or 30s, to go into this daily hair-supplement regimen, and not be content with pampering their hair with regular cellophane, hot oil massage and other advanced hair products now available. A shampoo can't really salvage unhealthy hair. You should go beyond the cosmetic approach, especially these days when stress and pollution are merciless.

You shouldn't wait until you're 40 or 50 before you become conscious of hair growth or loss. You can't diet to the max and not lose your hair. You're not Goldie Hawn.

Surviving the heels

Speaking of health and vanity, notice how, with shoes, there's nowhere to go but up, up. You wear either sexy flat slip-ons and trainers, or those killer heels with pointy toes. These days the heels are so high that guys must be truly feeling the inequality of the sexes, if they're with really tall dates. Sweet justice.

Those finely sculpted high heels are so sexy, and sexier even with sharp triangular pointed toes. I marvel how girls in their teens can pull the look off and walk so comfortably and confidently in them as if they were born in it—surely a far cry from my generation who grew up in boy's shoes to go with our uniforms and got to wear heels only on formal dates, and even then our feet moved like logs that needed cranes to sustain their momentum.

Even I wouldn't be caught dead with square toes these days. They have to be lethally sharp-toed and just as lethally stratospheric heeled. But then, how they kill your feet, especially when you're trying to walk apace an athletic boss who's doggedly preparing for a triathlon.

So—time for fashion survival. I go through the day with two pairs of shoes—trainers or slip-ons, and high heels. Flats and slip-ons for when I kick butts in the office, and heels for those corporate meetings when my butt is kicked. Again, sweet justice.

If they want to preserve their feet and ankles, women should do the same. No matter how young you are, it's not healthy, in the long run, to be on high heels 24/7. Also, it's bad for your back—and your date's ego. (Not that you care about the latter.)

'Paksiw na lechon' for Dick

Why do I get the feeling that the whole town has a hangover, not from any terrorism news, but from the La Salle-Ateneo game last Saturday? We're overdosing on text jokes, like: Ateneo championship T-shirts are going for sky's-the-limit prices at a Rockwell store. Why? Because you can buy them only every 14 years. To which Ateneans text back with this reminder: Ateneo has 17 championships, La Salle, only 11. We haven't heard the end of it.

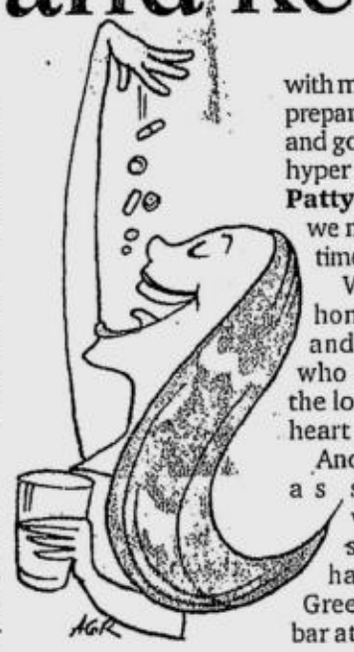
Last Saturday night after the game, we found La Sallite **Vicvic Villavicencio** at Eastwood's Something Fishy—the place-to-pack these days, by the way—instead of at the post-game bash at La Salle gym on Taft. He donated 50 *lechons* to what should have been a victory party there—they were that prepared. Vicvic was enough of a good sport to text his good friend, **Dick Gordon**, a true-Blue Eagle, that there would be enough *paksiw na lechon* to send Dick the next day. The feast, we learned, drew thousands nonetheless.

In contrast, the Ateneans had Mass on their campus; they weren't prepared for a feast.

Celebrated chefs

Ed Quimson, the celebrated chef, is indeed back with a vengeance. Night after night is like Ed's coming-out party in his new place, Rastro, a pica-pica bar and restaurant at Rockwell, as diners have the Spanish specialties they've missed, as only Ed could whip them up. Chicken liver with duck egg, Spanish omelet with homemade chorizo, Gambas del Chef Special (shrimps sautéed in garlic, crab fat and mayonnaise), Malasamosa smoked salmon (spring rolls of smoked salmon and cream cheese), Malasamosa *tinapa* (spring rolls of smoked milk fish, green mangoes and crème cheese), and of course, his paellas. In short, forget your cholesterol watch.

It's touching that every menu bears his handwritten dedication to his "dear **Doreen**" (**Fernandez**). Garbed in his colorful sarong with matching toque, Ed darts to the kitchen to prepare special dishes for his friends, gourmets and gourmands alike. As Ed cooks almost to a hyper beat, his partners **Andrew Tan** and **Patty del Rosario** dote on the diners, and we mean dote, from early dinner to closing time.



We're so glad that Ed has found a home, with a family to boot in Andrew and Patty, and with his loyalist diners who are apparently trying to make up for the long time Ed has been away from their heart and hearth.

Another chef whose presence remains just as strong is **Markus Gfeller**, whom we visited one night at Aqua. We hadn't seen Markus for a year, during which he has opened a successful Café Soleil at Greenbelt, a food court at RCBC, a health bar at Rustan's Essenses (try its apple shake and salmon). That night, he did a special meal for us—for me, a most refreshing appetizer of grilled squid on a bed of watermelon and tomato tartar, and his signature dish of sea bass with ocean herbal broth and cherry tomatoes; and for our friend, sof- shell crab tempura and, later, veal chop with foie gras sauce.

Just when you thought Markus had been more of a businessman than a chef, he whipped up this memorable meal that bore the culinary artist's touch, so reminiscent of his early days at Grassi, where we got to bond. We talked about the good old past, from his early patron **Geny Lopez**, to today's wine.

Markus is getting into more ventures, including a more exciting one—if he gets talked into it by a friend, that is—involving wine.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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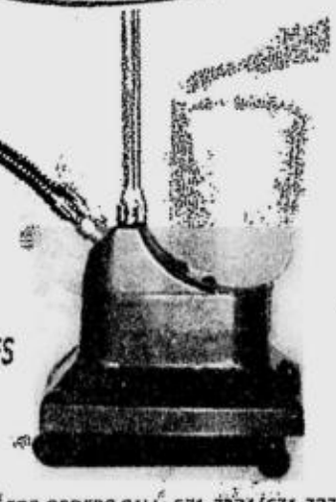

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MTV Fashionista Best Model Search 2002 finalists with MTV's Anne Matoto (extreme left)

17 finalists vie for MTV Best Model Search

MTV Philippines presents 17 of the best-looking and stylish models for the MTV Fashionista Best Model Search 2002 finals.

The male finalists are Bim Cecilio, Ritchie Ocampo, Ton Lao, Adrian Ceniza, Don Panganiban, Jasler Ubaldo, Mark Hernandez and Dos Qoung.

The female finalists are Riva Parkinson, Cecil de Guzman, Monica Padilla, Bambi Abdulsani, Nikki Quesada, Francesca Brinas, Love Bacallo, Duckee Timaro and Gilmarie Pacamarra.

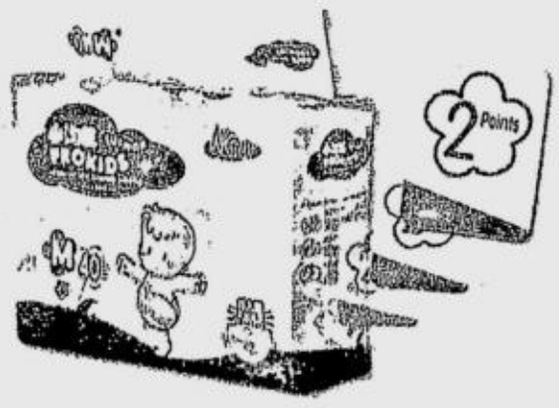
Next month, these finalists will be presented to the press and go on mall and MAC Store tours, bar raids, a Lux Academy seminar.

A mall tour and fashion show will be held on Oct. 13 at the Alabang Town Center, where the models will don apparel from Jag Jeans and makeup from MAC cosmetics, and a bar raid is scheduled on Oct. 18 at Wherelse? and Le Boulevardier at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

The MTV Fashionista Best Model Search 2002 finals will be held on Nov. 12 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Directed by Robby Carmona, the event will award one male and one female model with the title MTV Fashionista Best Model. They will be the country's representatives to the Best Model of the World 2002 contest to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on Nov. 29.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV or non-cable subscribers, Sky Cable subscribers and Home Cable subscribers. All cable companies carry MTV Philippines in Metro Manila. Call your cable operator for the channel designation. Call the MTV hotline at 882-1MTV, or log on to www.mtvasia.com. To text your comments, type PEX MTV (your comment) and send to 2333 for Globe subscribers, or 2443 for Smart subscribers.

Collect these



to bag these!

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UNITRADE MERCHANDISE INC. (Cebu Office) Mandaue North Central, M.L. Quezon Ave., Cabangkalan, Mandaue City, Cebu
LU BEAUTY HAUS Dalumpenas, Oeste San Fernando City, La Union
ROSCOM & COMPANY Door #4 MSC Bldg., Valeria Ext. St., Iloilo City
GOLDEN CENTURY MARKETING #10 R.F. Abejuela St., Cagayan de Oro City
TRIPLE 8 ENTERPRISES #673 Ante Subdivision, Washington Drive, Legaspi City

RAINFOREST Natural Mineral Water and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for North Luzon join hands in promoting the potential of North Luzon in business, social progress and tourism. This will be done via the Go North caravan that will tour the different areas of interest in the region. Photo shows the contract signing for the partnership, with (from left) Rene Besido, marketing manager of Convoy Marketing; Maureen Coronel-Abelardo, president, Skoal Advertising; Undersecretary Renato Diaz; Patricia Limpe, president, Archipelago Water Products; Olivia Limpe-Aw, executive vice president, Destileria Limtuaco; and Gboy Salapantan.

Ball marks frat's anniversary

GOINGS ON

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines' Tau Omega Mu Fraternity, along with its Ladies Circle, will hold an Omega Ball at 6:30 p.m, Oct. 12, at Club Filipino in Greenhills, to mark its 30th anniversary. All members, including those from the different chapters, are encouraged to attend. Call Brod Rico at (0917) 961-1254, Sis Jojo at 526-9677 or (0917) 645-4572, or visit www.tauomegagamu.org.

BOOK FAIR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc., with the Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions and Ateneo de Zamboanga, is holding a seminar-workshop on Reading and Literacy Appreciation in a Bilingual Context Oct. 11-12 at the Ateneo de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City. The two-day seminar-workshop is one of the highlights of the first Zamboanga book fair, Oct. 11-14, at the Ateneo de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City. Call 927-9858.

BAZAAR. Events specialist Menchie Mabanta holds a series of pre-Christmas bazaars at Tektite Building, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas, with over 50 vendors for each event. The first bazaar opens on Oct. 17. Sponsored by the International Exchange Bank, the bazaars will be held on Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-15, Dec. 12-13, and Dec. 18-20. Shoppers can win valuable prizes from the hourly raffle draws. Major credit cards are accepted and validated parking is available. Admission is free. The events, which will be held at the Auditorium, G/L Tektite Tower, will be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 438-9974, 437-1009 or (0917) 526-4812.

SEMINAR. The Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines is sponsoring a three-day seminar-workshop on "Skills Development for Library Support Staff," to be held at the Villa Jireh Hotel Resort, Uyong, Labrador, Pangasinan, Oct. 16-18. The seminar aims to enhance the skills of the library and information staff. Fee is P3,800, to cover accommodation, meals and seminar materials. Call Cecilia Guevarra at 734-7371, Corazon Garcia at 524-9217, Milagros Ong at 521-7223 or Valentina Tolentino at 893-9590.

DEMO. The Reading Association of the Philippines holds its midyear demo fest and book fair Oct. 19 and 20 at the Mariano Marcos State University in Laoag City. Registration is ongoing. Call (0917) 794-0726, 455-9133, 426-8068 or fax 920-2304.

BAZAAR. Shop@thefort will be held 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 12-13 and 19-20. Exhibitors include manufacturers of decorative pieces. Also available are export quality garments, fashion accessories, designer bags and shoes, toys and children's books, homemade snacks, pastries, salad dressings and gourmet spreads. The bazaar will accept local and international credit cards.

SHOW. Philippine Playhouse presents "Improv Night!," a show of comedic/dramatic improvisations, sketches, scenes, and songs, 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Monday. Admission is free. Call (0917) 899-8158 or 879-8230.

EXHIBIT. Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers will hold a pre-Christmas exhibit Oct. 11-Nov. 3 at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Complex. High quality but affordable products and goods like antique and modern furniture and furnishing, home appliances, Christmas décor, cell phones and accessories, RTW and other garments, arts and crafts, novelties, corporate giveaways, pearls and precious and semiprecious jewelry will be available.

WORKSHOP. The Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines, under its program Basic... and Beyond at CCP, will hold advanced photo workshops. Portrait photography will be held Oct. 19-20 while Light Painting Photography and Product Illustration is set for Oct. 26-27. Interested parties can register at Fujifilm Image Service Center, SM Megamall, c/o Dionie/Marsha or at the CCP during workshop days or call (0917) 399-4437, (0917) 411-8339; fax 801-3786, or e-mail photoworkshops@sppp.org.website.sppp.org.

FESTIVAL. Samboukan sa Mati marks the 99th Mati founding anniversary on Oct. 29. The Samboukan neo-ethnic group of Mati will do a Mandayan-inspired performance. The street dancing open competition is the region's premier alternative festival. It is inspired by the traditions of the Mandayas of Davao. Mayor Francisco G. Rabat is overall chair of the weeklong festivities. Edith Nakpil Rabat is chair of the Samboukan Festival.

FORUM. The Japan Foundation Manila Office (JFPO) is undertaking a collaborative project with the Department of Education (Region IV). Focusing on the theme "Crossing Cultures," the event will be held 9 a.m., Oct. 25, at the San Pablo City Central School. Designed to reach out to public and private school educators/administrators and college/graduate students in Region IV, the lecture forum will be keynoted by Dr. Paraluman R. Giron. She will be joined by Motohisa Shimizu, director of the JFPO as well as former grantees of the Japanese Studies Fellowship from the De La Salle University and Ateneo de Manila University. Call 811-6155 to -58 (JFPO), 633-0232 (DepEd, Region IV) or 735-7037/38 (MPSSA).

Lucky shoppers can win in Oktoberfest

SHOPWISE Supercenters sponsored a free outdoor concert recently in Libis, QC, to launch its month-long Oktoberfest celebration.

The concert, held at the Shopwise Libis parking lot, featured South Border, 7th Soul and Lynn Sherman and the Ugoy-Ugoy band.

Highlight of the evening was a beer-drinking contest. Prize was a Nokia 7650 cellular phone. Food and beer booths sold San Miguel products and appetizers.

As part of Oktoberfest, all Shopwise branches (Alabang, Makati and Libis) has weekend samplings of sausages, hotdogs, cheese and bread at the Meat and Deli sections until Oct. 31.

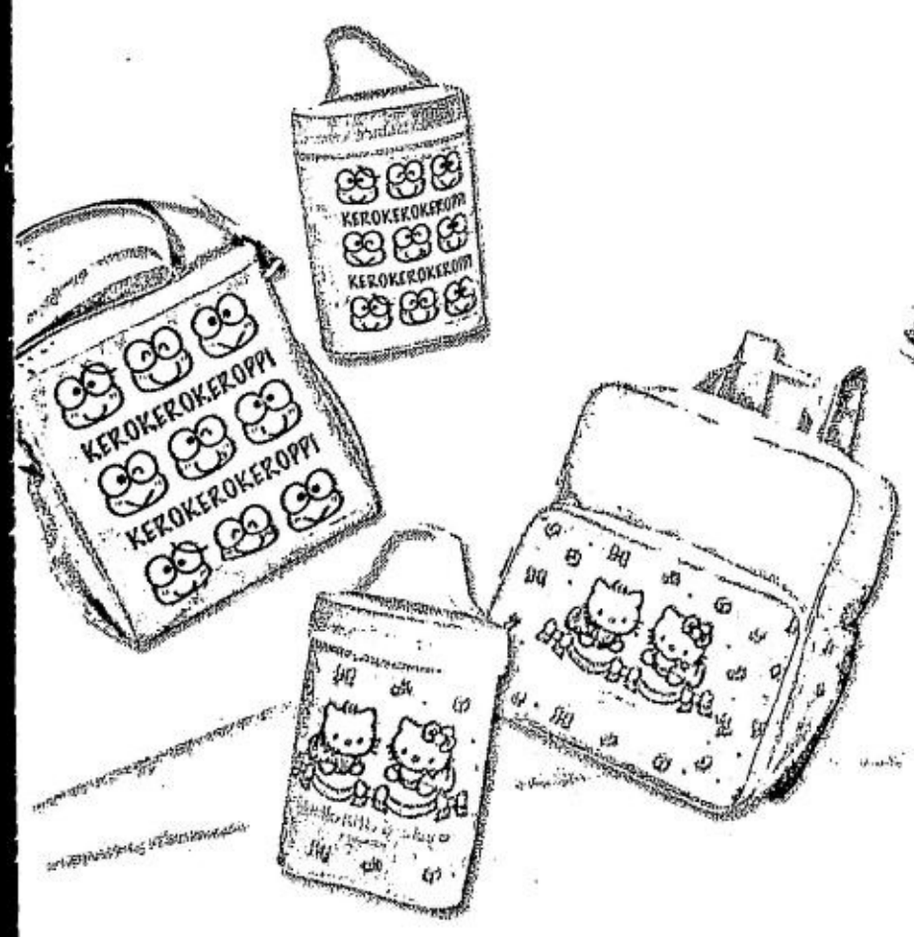
Shoppers can also get a free can of San Miguel Beer through the "Free Cheers at Shopwise" for every P300 purchase of frozen and fresh meat, poultry, deli and any San Miguel product.

The Alabang and Libis branches are holding beer-can stacking contests (Battle of the Beers) every Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Customers with a minimum purchase of P800 (single-receipt) may join. Each contestant gets 50 empty cans of beer and given one minute to stack as many cans on top of each other. If the cans tip over, they can start again, until the time alloted expires. The top three contestants with the highest number of beer cans win.

Another promo, "Be the Weiner Winner," a hotdog (weiner) eating contest, is held on weekends in the three Shopwise stores. With P800 minimum purchase, contestants get an equal number of jumbo hotdogs (five pieces for men and three pieces for women). The first to consume all the hotdogs must shout "Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs, the Filipinos' first favorite!"

The prizes for both categories are P3,000, P1,500 and P500 in Shopwise gift certificates.

Shopwise is located in Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang, Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz Extension in Makati and Bagumbayan, QC (Libis). Shopwise is open 10 a.m.-11 p.m. daily.



PROKIDS
DISPOSABLE BABY DIAPERS
SANRIO SWAP

MECHANICS:

1. To join, collect points found in Prokids packs.

Mini Packs / 4s	=	1/4 point
Big Pack	=	1 point
Value Pack	=	2 points

2. To claim prize, present corresponding points and required cash outlay per item.

Hello Kitty Babies Backpack	=	8 points + Php 200
Kerokerokeroppi Shoulder Bag	=	8 points + Php 200
Hello Kitty Babies Bottle Bag	=	4 points + Php 80
Kerokerokeroppi Bottle Bag	=	4 points + Php 80

3. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
4. You can join as many times as you want.
5. Promo period is from **September 15 to December 15, 2002.**
6. Gift Gate & Supermarket redemption: every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from October 4 to December 15, 2002.

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2936 series of 2002

Prizes can also be claimed at the redemption booth in the following Gift Gate stores and supermarkets:
Gift Gate Glorietta • Gift Gate Greenhills • Gift Gate Alabang Town Center • Gift Gate Harrison Plaza • Gift Gate SM Megamall B • Landmark • Ruslan's Cubao • Ultra Mega Muntinlupa • Citimart Batangas City • Citimart Tanauan • Excel Toms Supermarket, Batangas City • NE Bodega Baliuag, Bulacan • NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan • CSI Dagupan (Lucao) • CSI Baguio • Sunshine Supermart Baguio • Metro Gaisano Ayala • Metro Gaisano Mandaue • Gaisano Mall Davao

...O ASIAN DISTRIBUTOR, INC.
...ompound Warehouse
...n 7, Lanang 8000 Davao City

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JTT Bldg., Altiano Loop,
Veterans Ave. Ext. Zamboanga City

PICKS OF THE MONTH!

As low as
P1,947/month*

NOKIA 7650
P20,000 cash/charge for G-Max Plan

- Built-in digital camera
- Vibrant color screen display
- Take and send pictures via Multi-media messaging
- Enjoy Java games

Promo runs until December 1, 2002

SHOP SPECIALS!

For October:
Get a Globe Prepaid SIM+ for only P270 and get a treat.
FREE Globe Chicken McDo Meal

Promo runs until October 19, 2002
+ Available at all Globe Telecom Business Centers

FREE
for all G-Plans

NOKIA 3310
- Easiest for texting
- Changeable color cover

Promo runs until December 1, 2002

FREE
under Switching**
For G-Talk Plus and G-Max Plans

NOKIA 6310i
- Tri-band - call from anywhere in the world
- Faster mobile internet through Globe GPRS

Promo runs until December 1, 2002

FREE***
for new BPI cardholders and new BPI Maxi-One or Platinum depositors

***at G-Talk Plan and up

NOKIA 3315
- Picture messaging
- 459-character Text
- Allows multiple text sending

Promo runs until December 1, 2002 for new BPI cardholders and November 30, 2002 for new Maxi-One or Platinum depositors

GLOBE TELECOM
Business Center

* Computation based on Citibank and Standard Chartered 12-month term for the Globe Handyphone G-Max Plan. Interest rates vary for other credit cards. Subject to bank approval.

** To get a G-Plan, bring valid ID, proof of billing address, and financial documents. For switching, present two (2) paid non-Globe bills of the last four (4) months. Average current usage has to be P600 and above to qualify. For more details, visit the nearest Globe Telecom Business Center.

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2. Photocopy one valid ID (Company, Passport, SSS, PRC, Driver□s License) and credit card (front and back)
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www.globehandyphone.com.ph

Conditions apply. See flyers for details.
Promo runs until December 1, 2002.

CUT AND FILL OUT THIS ORDER FORM

GLOBE HANDYPHONE ORDER FORM — Fax no. 739-9999

✓ Yes, I would like a Globe Handyphone delivered to me, paid via installment / straight charge/one-time payment

APPLICANT'S NAME ____ First Name ____ Last Name ____ Middle Name ____ Mother's Maiden Name
HOME ADDRESS ____ No ____ Street ____ Barangay ____ City ____ Zip Code
HOME CONTACT NO. ____ BIRTHDAY ____ mm/dd/yy
OFFICE /COMPANY NAME
BUSINESS ADDRESS ____ No ____ Street ____ Barangay ____ City ____ Zip Code
BUSINESS TEL NO. ____ PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS] Home [ ] Office
SPOUSE NAME ____ First Name ____ Last Name ____ Middle Name
OFFICE /COMPANY NAME
CREDIT CARD NAME] BPI] Citibank] Diners Club] Equitable] Unicard] Standard Chartered EXPIRY DATE ____
CREDIT CARD NO ____ 3 Digits at the Back of Card ____
TERM if installment] 3 months] 6 months] 9 months] 12 months] 18 months] 24 months
CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS] Home] Office] Others
HANDSET ORDER] Nokia 7650] Nokia 6310i] Nokia 3310] Others
LINE APPLICATION PLAN] G-Text (Plan P500)] G-Mix (Plan P800)] G-Talk (Plan P1200)] G-Talk Plus (Plan P1800)] G-Max (Plan P3500)] Pre-paid Line
SIGNATURE ____ DELIVERY DATE / TIME ____

To be filled up by Globe Telecom Representative:
Approval Code ____ Terms ____
Monthly Amortization ____ Total Amount ____
Transaction Date ____
Remarks ____ PDI 10/11

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 1571,3864,3958,3692 Series of 2002.

A CACTUS-inspired tabletop accent

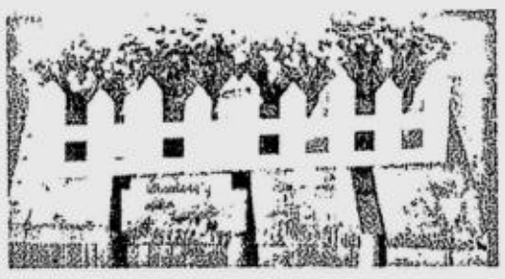
Bring nature home

WHILE there's nothing like natural plants and flowers, beautifully crafted ones can likewise bring beauty, color and serenity to one's home or office.

Here are some exciting ways with tabletop blooms from HomeWorld:

- Have something from nature in your entrance. A vase of sunflowers, for example, can give your guests a warm welcome.
- Place a tabletop plant in a copper or brass bucket to reflect more light.
- Light a candle and place a fresh bud vase to keep you company while you do your best work.
- Create an exotic mood by placing an orchid or bamboo arrangement in Oriental furniture.
- Work with color in choosing your indoor blooms. If your room is light and airy, a pastel arrangement will work wonders; if you're into wooden furniture, spice-colored blooms bring vitality to your room.
- Make your room a secret garden of sorts by having small mum pots in spring colors.
- Arrange pots of plants and flowers like a flower box near your window.
- Cactus flowers in terra-cotta pots make great indoor accents whether as a single pot or in multiples.

More than anything else, rearrange your indoor blooms whenever you can. Remember that rooms are not still lifes; and the best of them, like life itself, continue to grow and change as we do. Tabletop blooms are available at the HomeWorld department of all SM stores.



A SPRING bouquet in yellow, red, plum and white

EXOTIC orchid tabletop accent

CACTI in different shapes and sizes

PSID annual exhibit honors pillars in Philippine interior design

Story on page G6

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See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4040, Series of 2002

"Lower Than Cash Price" Appliances From Citibank

Have you ever dreamed of owning the latest DVD player or flat screen TV? Drooling over the one displayed at the local appliance store? Now, Citibank can end that long awaited break and make that dream into a reality!

Get those dream appliances not only at Zero Percent (0%) interest but also at lower than the cash price with Citibank's **"Lower Than Cash Price"** promo at the SM Appliance Center's **Appliance Installment Fiesta** happening this October 11-30, 2002, at the SM Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall.

Citibank's "Lower Than Cash Price" promo lets Citibank cardholders pay for items at **Lower Than The Actual Cash Price**, available at the 6-month installment plan. Just charge your purchases on your Citibank credit card using the 6-month PayLite Installment Plan and get a 1% rebate on the purchase amount every month for 6 consecutive months. The Lower Than Cash Price offer is available on selected items at the exhibit area only.

Plus, **WIN ANY OF THE 4 VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLES** through Citibank PayLite's Beetlemania! For every P3,000 charged to PayLite in a single transaction, you are entitled to one (1) electronically generated raffle entry. To top all these, receive a **FREE Mini-Beetle Model Car** at the SM Appliance Center's **Appliance Installment Fiesta** for a minimum P5,000 single PayLite purchase!

Offering increased financial flexibility, PayLite is a unique privilege available to all cardholders of Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell-Citibank Silver and Gold MasterCard, Citibank-Cathay Pacific Visa, Citibank Clear MasterCard and Citibank Visa Platinum.

For more information, please call the 24-Hour Citiphone at 995-9999, or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

advertorial

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MEGATRADE HALL 2
SM MEGAMALL
OCTOBER 11-30

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. A3-432 & 3568 Series of 2002

Control those weeds by cooking them

By Tita V. Giron

ANNOYED by those weeds that tend to overrun your garden? Don't get mad, get even. Cook them.

That's what the book "Oops... Don't Throw Those Weeds!" is all about—how to create great fusion dishes from "lowly" common plants—and weeds like *takip-kuhol*, *pancit-pancitan*, *talinum* and *cadena de amor*.

The book features 70 common native plants and trees. It has 140 pages with colored photos and generous information about the plants' scientific names; where to find, how to plant and propagate them; and their various uses as home remedies. Also featured are recipes for novel dishes that can be prepared using the plants and weeds.

Maur Aquino Lichauco and her co-authors appropriately enough introduced their book to media friends over lunch, which featured a menu consisting of the recipes included in the book.

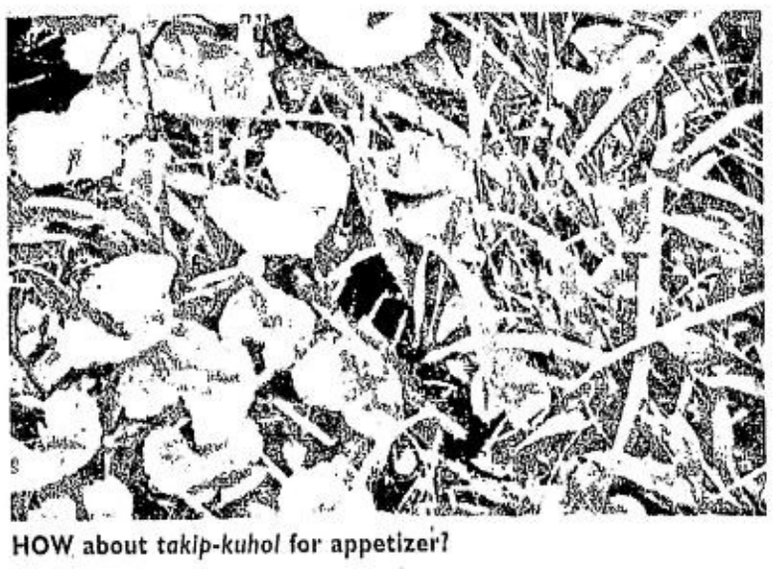
The authors are, aside from Lichauco, Noni Dolera, Carmen Florento and Flor Tarriela, all members of the Ferns and Nature Society of the Philippines. Together, they made forays to the countryside and to the gardens of hobbyists to look for useful common plants.

"We will launch the book at the 20th anniversary garden show of the fern society Nov. 16–25 at the Manila Seedling Bank," Dolera announced. He is a former president of the society and known expert in plant names and identity, particularly Philippine ferns and orchids.

He added that a very special feature of that garden show will be a cooking demonstration by Lichauco, where she would show how to create gourmet fusion dishes using the "lowly" plants. "Of course, the recipes are from her personal file," Dolera said.

Cooking has been Lichauco's passion for 30 years now.

Tarriela said, "The title of the book was actually inspired by the *talinum* weed." She recalled that they (the authors) were touring the plant nursery of a landscape artist when Lichauco saw variegated *talinum* in the garden. Tarriela said she didn't realize the culinary value of the *talinum* weeds. She told her friends that she threw them away. "Ooops... don't throw them away," someone in the group remarked. Everyone exclaimed it should be the title of the book.



HOW about *takip-kuhol* for appetizer?

MEDINILLA, a forest plant, is used for cooking.

Intro to weed dishes

During the media lunch, Lichauco served white cheese with spicy squash flowers, green tomatoes and *takip-kuhol* leaves for appetizer. Her thirst quencher was ice-cold *talinum* juice sweetened with honey and flavored with fresh *tanglad* and calamansi.

The salad greens that followed were a colorful composition of edible weeds: purplish flowers of *Clitorea ternata* commonly known as *pukinggan*, pink *cadena de amor* flowers, *pancit-pancitan* leaves, red *katuray* blooms, *pako* and strips of turnip and carrots. French dressing gave the unusual taste and look of the familiar tossed salad.

The next course was cream of *monggo* soup with leaves of an indigenous plant called *borbotak*, and leaves of *bago* nut tree. It was followed by blue marlin laced with nuts from the native *bago* tree.

Lichauco, a sister of the late Ninoy Aquino, talked about some of the weeds over lunch. "*Talinum*, a very common roadside plant, served as the main source of our Vitamin C during the lean years of the war when food was scarce," she recalled.

When fillet mignon steak on a bed of shredded "heart" of fishtail palm was served, Lichauco offered some culinary advice: "The heart of fishtail palm was shredded and then blanched the night before. Then it was marinated in vinegar water prior to cooking it in garlic. Chinese *hoisin* sauce was used for seasoning."

Before serving the dessert, a rich *macapuno* candy, guests were advised to drink the ice-cold *tanglad* tea "to clear the taste buds of any off taste." The rich dessert, which turned out to be the favorite of the Aquino family, was wrapped in strips of paper lace used for native candies served during *fiestas*.

After the memorable lunch, we could agree wholeheartedly with National Scientist Benito Vergara in his foreword to "Oops... Don't Throw Those Weeds!": "Many useful books have been written, not by scientists but by ordinary folks with enthusiasm and dedication to the subject. This book on local edible and useful plants is such an example... This book has given many challenges to the readers. And readers will do well to send information on the other plants not listed in the book."

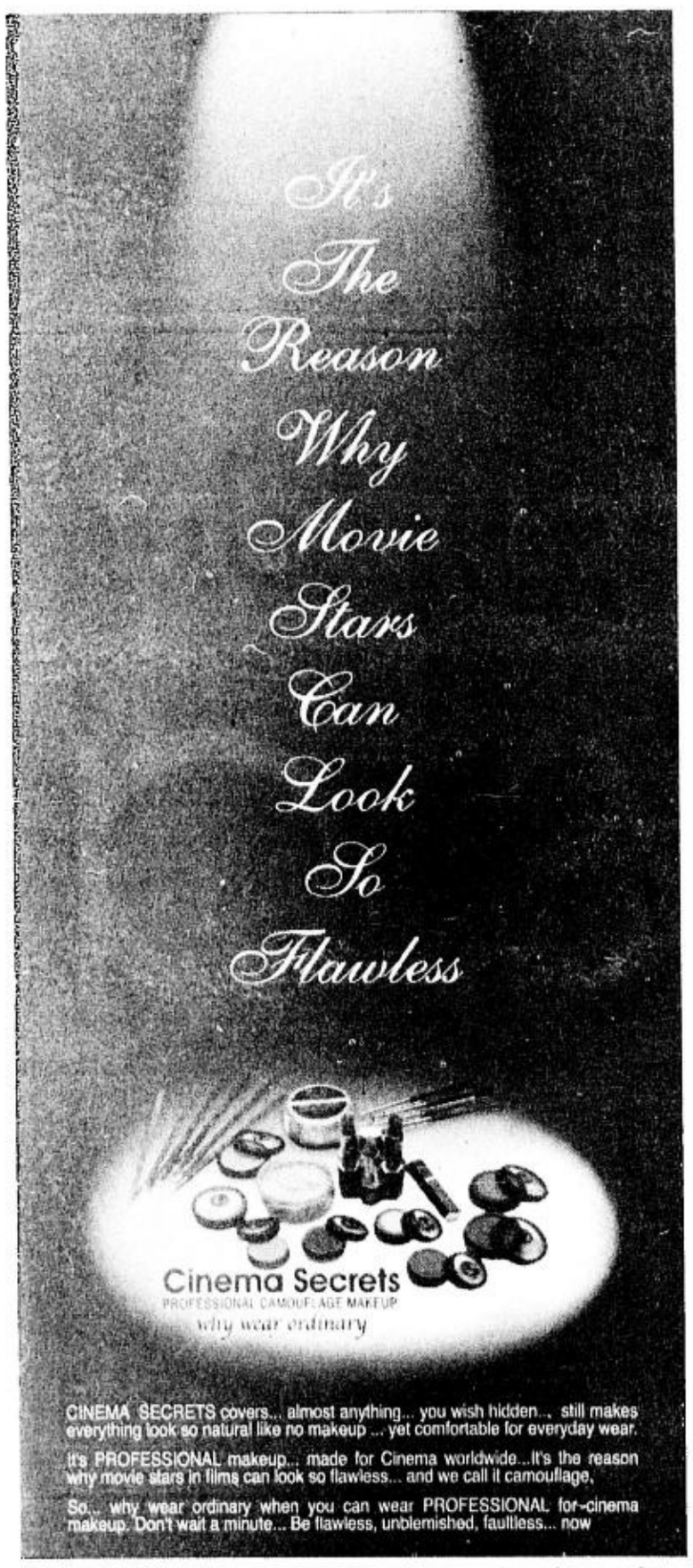
For more information on the interesting book, call Flor Tarriela at 631-0789.

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

Book shows how gourmet fusion dishes can be created from 'lowly' common plants—and weeds

MAUR Aquino Lichauco has created gourmet dishes using weeds and common roadside plants.

PEOPLE behind the book: Mercy Gamboa, Carmen Florento, Ernest Santiago, Maur Lichauco, Flor Tarriela and Noni Dolera



Main Showroom: 78 Cordillera St. Cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 711-4312 732-7533 711-4394
Also available at SM Megamall Dept. Store, Landmark Dept. Store, Sta Lucia East Dept. Store & selected leading beauty salons Now also at I-mart ABS-CBN Mall & Shopwise Tiba

Linis-Ganda volunteers make solid waste management work

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

FOR WEEKS now, readers have been sending us reports on their organizations and projects in which volunteers are essential parts. Their reports come in reply to our request for stories on volunteers to show that, often, people have to do things themselves to get the work done. In the process, we've learned that what many people call "people power" or "people empowerment" simply means people acting on their own, without pay, to achieve their goals. Nowhere has this been proven so well than in cases involving the environment.

One of the first to respond to our request was D.D. who, on the call of then Mayor Dick Gordon in the '90s, volunteered to protect and clean up Subic Naval Base after it was vacated by the Americans. D.D.'s story apparently stirred up others to write about their own "volunteer stories" which, collectively, convey the message that one can be rightfully proud to be a volunteer for it is a selfless way to serve a worthy project, especially when there are no others to do the job. I totally agree, for the phrase "selfless service" is practically obsolete today, even in areas where one expects it most, like in the government. Finding it among volunteers—in many cases unknown—reveals a positive side of our society.

Yolly Samson, from a neighborhood village called Annex 1618 in Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City, reports on how her community, composed of about 285 homeowners, tackled their garbage problem in the face of government inaction. Back in 2000, she says, the homeowners adapted the Linis-Ganda program (started by Narda Camacho) of garbage collecting and recycling.

Those who launched the program were largely volunteers who researched on methods to systematize garbage collection and segregation. When they had set up their work plans, they presented these to the board of Annex 1618's Homeowners Association, which agreed with the plans and eventually created the Annex 1618 Linis-Ganda Volunteer Committee.

In 2001 (which coincided with the passage into law of the Solid Waste Management Act), the Board made solid waste management its flagship project. That encouraged them, says Samson, to push through with the project despite a few apprehensions from some members of the community.

Homeowners volunteered to be part of the Linis-Ganda committee, she continued, simply because they were concerned citizens. "We were inspired to go on with volunteer projects because even the officers of the Board worked full time as volunteers. They also did the legwork, like going from house to house to teach or monitor the segregation system in households."

At present, the number of volunteers has increased to 25, many of them executives with corporate positions like presidents of companies, senior VPs, GMs, lawyers, accountants and other silent workers who contribute their talent, time and personal resources to make their solid waste management system work.

They started in March 2001 by picking up recyclables using a pedicab. The following month, they terminated the services of a garbage truck, replacing it with their own Eco-Truck and Eco-Aides. Then, with the cooperation and voluntary contributions of concerned people, they were able to build an Eco-Center where collected recyclables are temporarily stored.

Recognized by their barangay officials as the pioneers in an integrated solid waste management program, Annex 1618 volunteers hope that other communities will follow suit so they can enjoy the clean and orderly environment they deserve. For, as Samson puts it, "If you have something in mind, or if you want to do something good for your community, you better volunteer, otherwise no one will do it for you."

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Seminar on bonsai and dish gardening

GREEN 2000 Garden Center will give free seminars on plant art-basic bonsai and dish gardening this month. Plant art expert Serapion Metilla will conduct dish gardening or tray landscaping tomorrow at the AEK Bldg II, 40 E. Rodriguez Ave., QC. Metilla, founder of the Philippine Bonsai Society, has been into bonsai culture and other plant arts for over 40 years now.

Bonsai is the Japanese art of growing dwarfed, ornamentally shaped trees or shrubs in small shallow containers. Metilla will discuss how to choose planting materials, shape, wire and trim the plants as well as their care and maintenance.

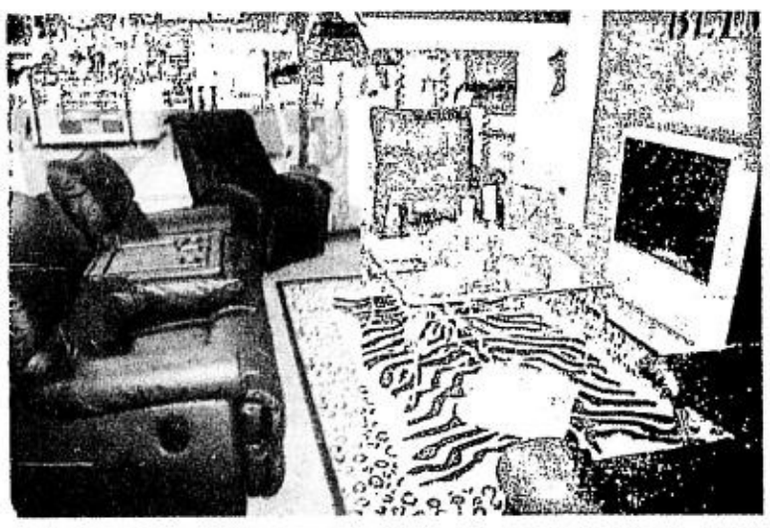
Dish gardening or tray landscaping is recreating nature with the use of various plants set in a wide, low vase. Participants will be taught how to choose planting materials, designing a landscape, choosing accessories and care and maintenance.

Metilla will also give tips on how to dress up bonsai and dish gardens as décor for the holidays.

Call 732-1942/54.

DISH gardening recreates nature in a vase.

SOFA sets from Italsofa

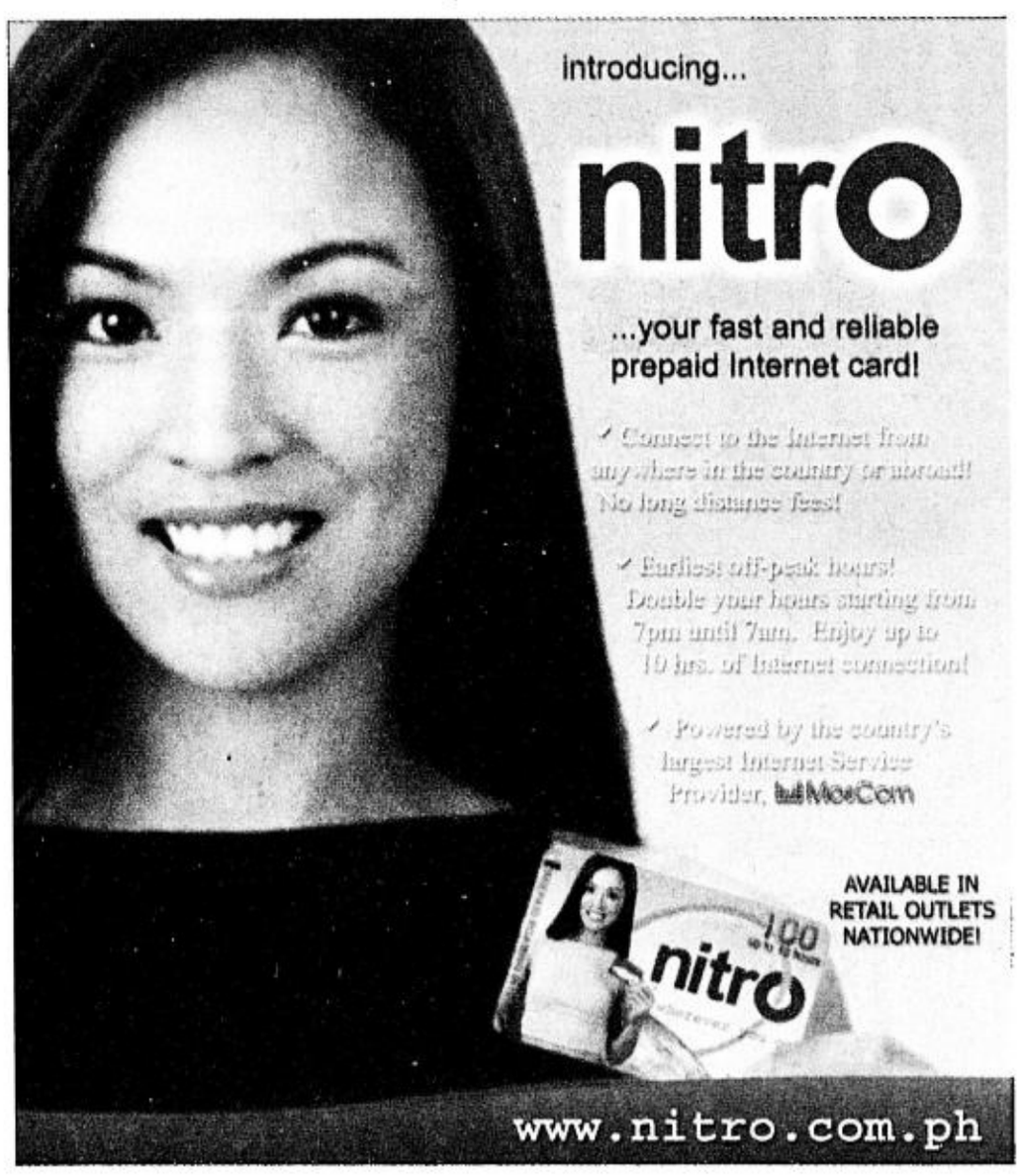


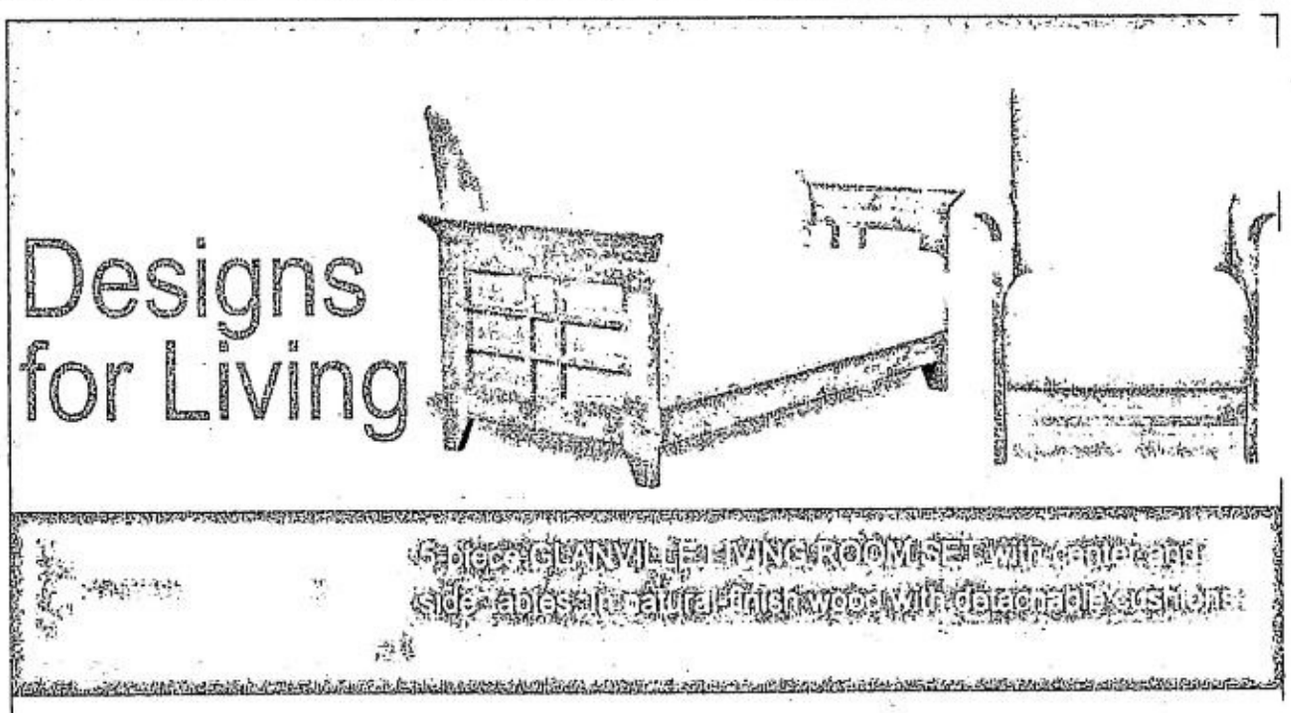
ARMCHAIRS from Simmons of USA

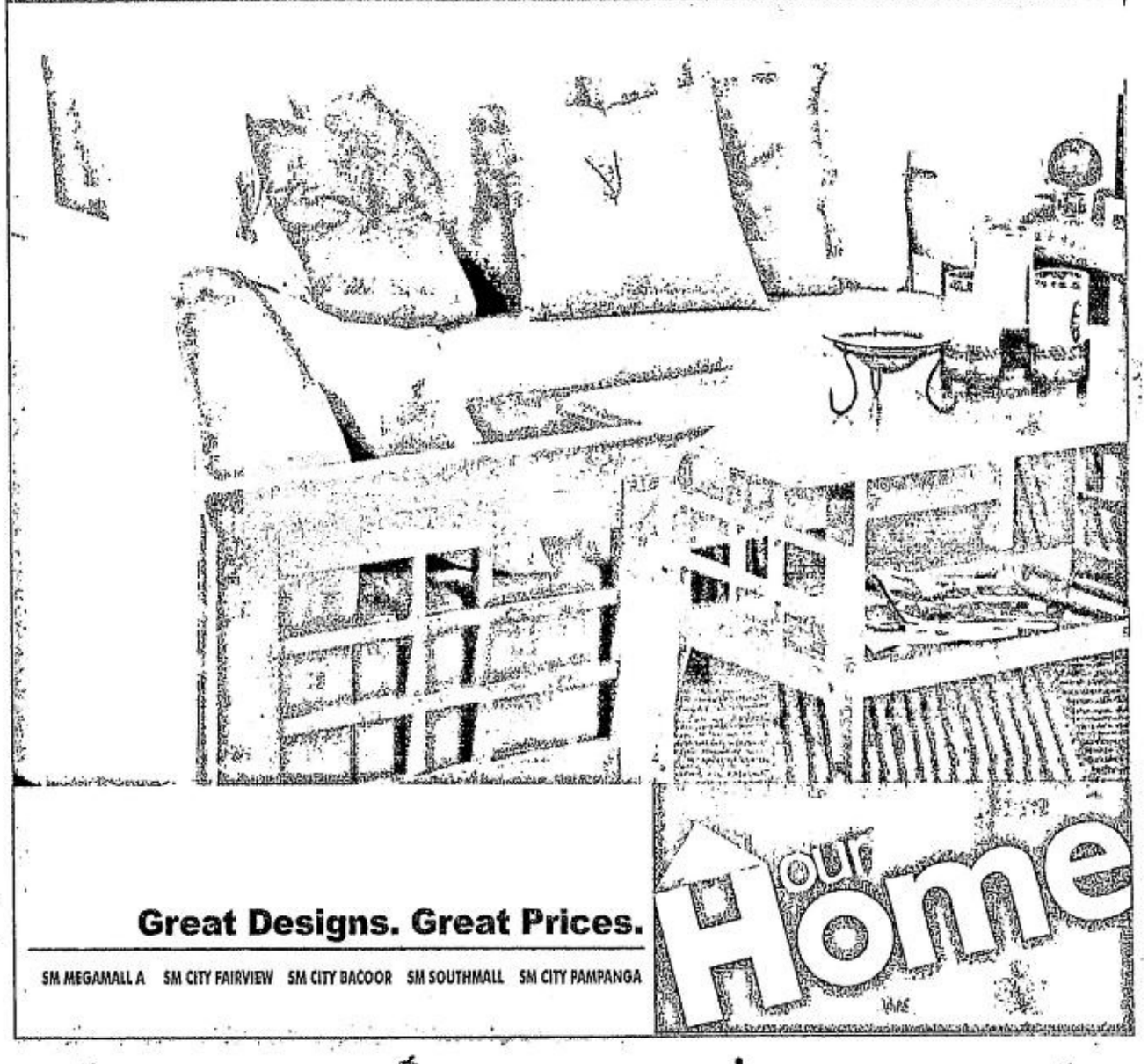
Home is where the heart is

AS Blims Fine Furniture celebrates its 25th year this year, the furniture chain presents the exhibit "Naughty or Nice," ongoing until today at the activity center of Alabang Town Center's new wing. Blims showrooms at Greenbelt 1, Glorietta, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Ayala Center in Cebu and Ayala Avenue, features world-class brands like Simmons of USA, which is known for its mattresses, armchairs, loveseats, sofas and sofa beds; South Shore bedroom collection, cabinet wardrobe line and entertainment pieces; Italsofa sofa sets and armchairs; L-A-Z-Boy recliners; O'Sullivan furniture; Ameriwood of USA ready-to-assemble furniture; and the Alain Deello leather line.

Complementing the settings are appliances from Sony; flower arrangements and Christmas trimmings by Designer Blooms; area rugs and curtain fabrics by Shell Canvass Alabang; wooden tiles from True Value; trees from Jesu Blooms & Evergreen Flower Shop; lamps by Renditions and Leo Almeria; Oriental accessories by Conrad V. Adamos of Sifra Arts and Crafts; cushions and curtains from Maro Zayco; special Christmas decorations from Leo Almeria and Christmas Décor Producers and Exporters Association of the Philippines.







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• Sweet Style
750 mL
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 51.00

JUFRAN
Sweet Chili Sauce
330 g
TLC PRICE
P24.00 ea.
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MC CORMICK
Coating Mix
• Ar Varieties
65 g
TLC PRICE
P13.50 ea.
Reg. Price 15.50

MAMA SITA'S
Lumpiang Shanghai Mix
40 g
TLC PRICE
P9.75 ea.

KNORR
Noodle Soup
• Chicken
• Beef
60 g
TLC PRICE
P15.00 ea.

CDO
Karne Norte
175 g
TLC PRICE
P17.25 ea.
Reg. Price 17.50

ARGENTINA
Liver Spread
85 g
TLC PRICE
P9.25 ea.

ARGENTINA
Meat Loaf
170 g
TLC PRICE
P11.75 ea.

PUREFOODS
Vienna Sausage
140 g
TLC PRICE
P21.50 ea.
Reg. Price 21.95

PUREFOODS
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350 g
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Reg. Price 34.50

HUNT'S
Pork & Beans
220 g
TLC PRICE
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555
Sardines
• In Tomato Sauce
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P38.00 /pk.

CENTURY
Tuna
• Solid In Water
• Chunks In Water
184 g
TLC PRICE
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IDEAL
Spaghetti
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TLC PRICE
P41.50 /pk.

LUCKY ME!
Instant Pancit Canton
• Regular
65 g / 7's
TLC PRICE
P33.25 pk.

KRAFT
Real Mayonnaise
• Regular
470 mL
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 78.50

KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
• Par
250 g
TLC PRICE
P40.75 ea.

KELLOGG'S
Corn Cereals
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300 g
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 107.50

GOYA
Chocolate Bars
• All Flavors
40 g
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P10.50 ea.
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FRES
Herb Mint
50's
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PSID annual exhibit honors pillars in Philippine interior design

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

The annual exercise may seem like a competition where one group tries to beat the others in terms of new ideas and the attention they generate

IT'S supposed to be a tribute to 35 distinguished personalities closely identified with the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID), but the school's 35th anniversary exhibit, dubbed as "An Affair in Black and White," also showcases the creativity and sheer industry of this year's batch of graduating students.

And unlike a cheap studio set, there's no room for makeshift displays in the show. Not a single area uses cardboard or Styrofoam dividers, nor did any group improvise on the objects they needed. Instead, each display offers an interplay of themes and nuances in the form of colors, textures, artworks, lighting fixtures and real furniture and accent pieces.

Thanks to generous sponsors, the students were able to make each space as realistic as possible. The display by Salud Bascara and company, a nearly all-white kitchen showcase for architect Lor Calma, is even outfitted with a functioning refrigerator and oven. In keeping with the chosen themes, other showcases are equipped with state-of-the-art entertainment gadgets. Concrete ledges, sanded floors, wooden beams, stainless steel railings and textured walls are more the rule than the exception.

Daunting task

"We always demand of our students to come up with a polished exhibit," says Jie Pambid, dean of PSID. "We don't encourage them to scrimp on the use of materials or improvise because we have certain standards to uphold as well as distinguished people to honor."

This year's batch of honorees consists of professionals from various fields and disciplines. Aside from Calma, honorees in architecture and interior design are Edith Oliveros, Agustin Cancio, Pinky de los Reyes, Mike Pizarro and Jhun Alday, among others. PSID also pays tribute to writer-publisher Opat Hermano, Sr. Precita Aseberos, artist Tessie Pettyjohn and businessman Ben Chan, four of the school's alumni.

"UNCLUTTERED: Asymmetry in Nature" by Patricia Anne Peña, Glen Dabuet, Aymerie Joan Oliveros, Princess Marjorie Orgas and Marlyn Geronimo for Tita del Rosario

Months before the ongoing exhibit at the 34th floor of the LKG Tower in Makati (admission is free), close to 150 students divided themselves into several groups—from as few as two to as many as five each. To make matters more interesting, they weren't assigned to any particular person but drew lots on which honoree they would be designing their display for.

As if the lack of time and resources wasn't enough to give them sleepless nights, students were also expected to come up with displays reflecting the taste, lifestyles and design philosophies of the honorees assigned to them.

"On top of these considerations," says Pambid, also one of this year's honorees, "they also have to work closely together to come up with a display that reflects their own styles."

Lessons from a master

The project, PSID'S equivalent of a thesis, is the only thing that stands between the students and graduation in December. Pambid and other members of the faculty were available for consultations months before the exhibit opened. With the exception of one work that had to be rushed in three short days, all the other displays met the deadline.

Some honorees, like Hermano, were quite generous with their advice. She even lent chairs, accent pillows, and John Lennon's pen and ink drawing of himself and wife Yoko Ono, to Kenneth Villanueva and his team. Dubbed as "The Eve of September 11," the display is one of two entries focusing on the bathroom.

"Since she considers herself a New Yorker at heart," says Villanueva, "we made liberal use of modern lines and such touches as black ceramic tiles for the floor."

In lieu of classic columns, Hermano suggested that they use an old Meralco post for the four-poster bathtub that sat directly beneath a faux skylight. A silhouette of the New York's famous skyline, including the ill-fated Twin Towers, done in black mosaic, provides a perfect foil to the bathroom's white walls.

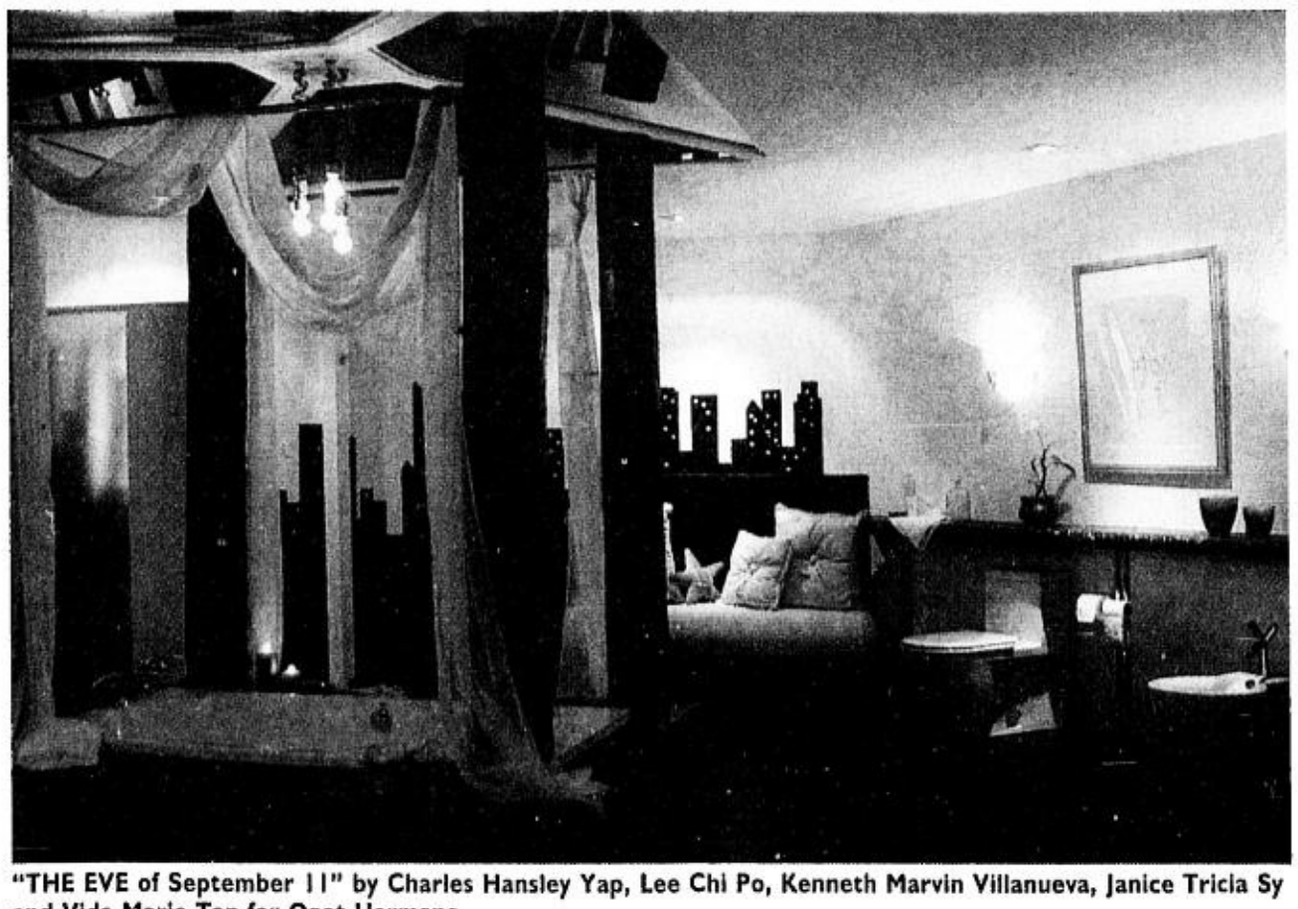
In contrast, Jessica Tsoi and her group relied purely on imagination to come up with a living room that reflected Chan's preferences. The businessman was hardly present during interviews, relegating the task to one of his assistants. "He's said to favor modern and minimalist lines," says Tsoi, "but he doesn't stick to a particular look for long."

To come up with "Modern Solace and Solitude," the group dropped padded and printed pieces in favor of a sleek sofa and chairs made from a series of stainless steel frames. Splashes of light and color defy the exhibit's black-and-white theme even as they add warmth to an otherwise unfussy setup. A variation of Chan's trademark bench, a heavy metal piece sans backrest that reportedly took ten men to lift, sits at the far end of the room.

Despite her many achievements, veteran interior designer and educator Oliveros has yet to consider full-time retirement. A self-confessed workaholic, however, she believes in the importance of finding a quiet corner where she can relax and forget all her cares if only for a few hours.

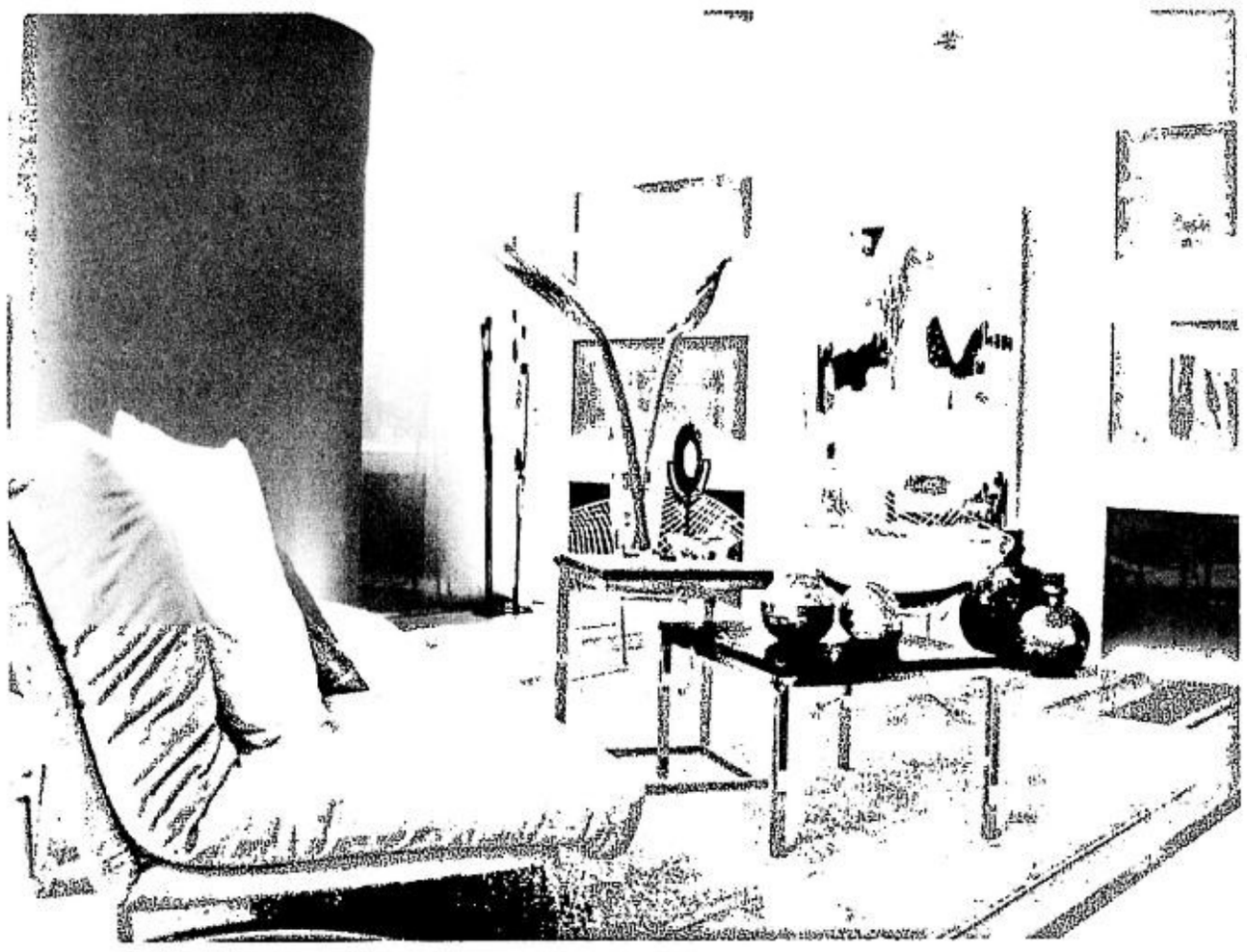
Thus, Jennifer Savit and her group came up with "Takip Silim," an Asian-inspired living

PSID/ p.G7



"THE EVE of September 11" by Charles Hansley Yap, Lee Chi Po, Kenneth Marvin Villanueva, Janice Tricia Sy and Vida Marie Tan for Opat Hermano

"A TASTE for Simplicity" by Salud Bascara, Jovan Romero, Erlie Macaranas and Jaime Cabañes for Lor Calma



"MODERN Solace and Solitude" by Mylene Lising, Lou Quijano, Pamela Xena Bicerra, Cristina Trinidad, Jessica Tsoi and Gretchen Picache for Ben Chan

"THE BLACK Liquid" by Clarissa Andal and Erika Soriano for Paz Abad Santos

PSID annual exhibit honors pillars in Philippine interior design

From page G6

room containing Buddha heads and sawhorses, among others. Envisioned as Oliveros' private sanctum where she can meditate and entertain friends, one of the room's focal points is a ceiling treatment made of strips of wood arranged like the sun's rays.

"We're lucky to have this spot," says Savit, as she points to several stylized window treatments that provide a breathtaking view of the metropolis and Manila Bay beyond. "The place is perfect especially during sunset."

The group defines the simple interplay of wood, concrete and fabric through contrasting shades of black and white. Although several antique-looking pieces stand out, they surprisingly look cohesive when taken as a whole.

Nordic look

Queenie Estanislao and friends have taken a fresh stab at Scandinavian chic by doing an all-white entertainment area intriguingly called "Fiery White" for De los Reyes. Rather than break the look with black accents, the group tempered an otherwise stark space by juxtaposing lines and textures. For instance, a part of the wall juts out to showcase geometric patterns, while another is as smooth as Nordic winter.

The group resorts to the whimsical use of lights and silhouettes in the bar and wine cabinet. The latter also doubles as a wall treatment with bottles of wine and other spirits casting their hazy shapes and colors on a sliding pair of frosted glass doors.

"It was pretty scary at first," says Estanislao, referring to the virtual absence of color, "but such a fearless yet gentle look is a reflection of the honoree's personality. There was no middle ground with such an approach. Either it works or it doesn't."

That the students spent quite a sum on their respective masterpieces is beyond question. Although no two displays are priced the same, this year's graduating class all agree on one thing: they wouldn't have pulled off such a feat without the help of various sponsors.

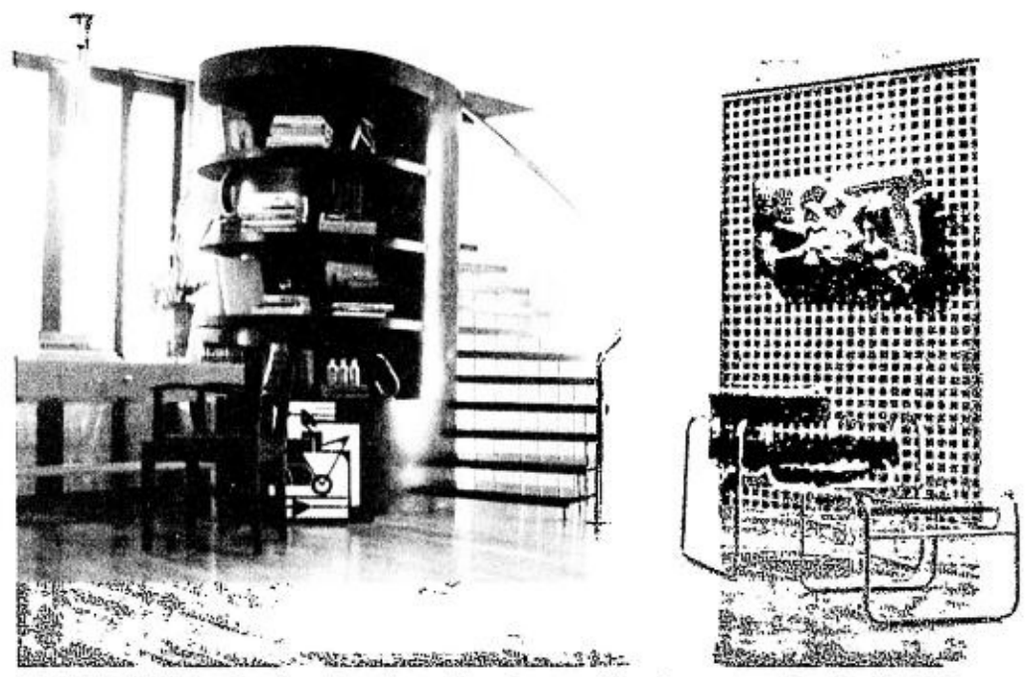
The annual exercise may seem like a competition where one group tries to beat the others in terms of new ideas and the attention they generate. But the students themselves are the first to debunk such notions. "Once we started working," says Estanislao, "we hardly had the time to size up (the work of others), much less compare our work with (theirs). Now that the hard part is over, all we want to do is heave a collective sigh of relief."

Pambid underscores the importance of the yearly exhibits. "It's a good learning experience for budding interior designers. Since their ideas are no longer confined on paper, they now get to deal with every aspect of interior design—from choosing materials down to dealing with contractors."

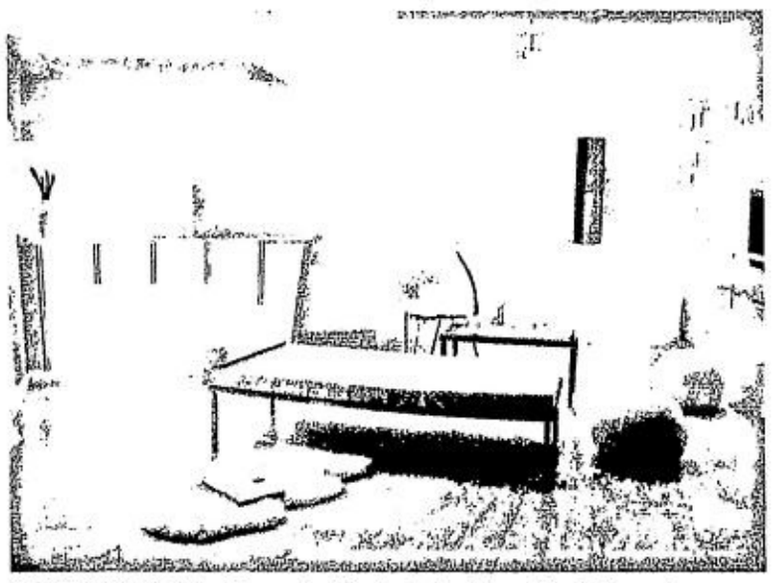
And lest we forget, for this year's class, this is also their first encounter with hard-to-please and all-too-powerful clients. Only in this case they're not called clients but honorees whose exacting demands and unique quirks are reflected in this year's 35 featured displays.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Unlike a cheap studio set, there's no room for makeshift displays in the show. Not a single area uses cardboard dividers



"CONTRAST" by Emelina Francisco, Ma. Carmen Lim, Leonyrose Garcia, Karlo Jamer and Francis Marte for Agustin Cancio



"FIERY White" by Queenie Marie Estanislao, Raul Ryan de Rosario and Celine Cruz for Pinky de los Reyes

"SOLACE" by Vincent Paul Ricafort, Devi Tara Blauta, Erika Marie Babasa and Angelyn Pingol for Claro Ferrera

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PROF. Serapion Metilla with (from left) Jonathan N. Navea, Urbano Reyes, Nancy Chiongbian, Sen. Robert Barbers, Celia Umali and Gov. Justo M. Ortiz

Plant art expert named Golden Scroll awardee

PLANT art expert and Ikenobo Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla recently received the Golden Scroll Award for Education in the 18th Annual People's Choice Awards, which is a grand tribute to world-class Filipino achievers under the auspices of the Who's Who in the Philippines Foundation headed by Jonathan N. Navea.

Metilla, an educator who initiated the founding of the Philippine Bonsai Society, the Cactus and Succulent Society and the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Davao, popularized bonsai, dish-gardening, terrarium, Ikebana, mini-waterfall Zen garden, through lecture-demonstrations and seminar-workshops throughout the country and abroad, particularly in Italy and Germany. A former columnist of the Manila Times, Times Journal, the INQUIRER, Woman 's Home Companion and Starweek, he has helped promote ornamental gardening not only as a hobby but also as a means of livelihood.

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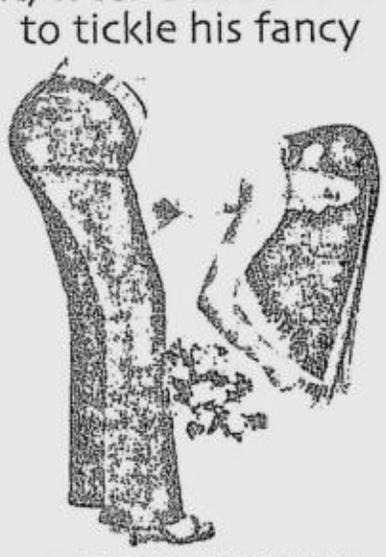

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LIFESTYLE

Dandy diplomatique

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

SEVEN years of living in Paris as a diplomat have served Junie del Mundo well. For one, the stint further refined his fashion sense, and that refinement helps the image now that he's working in the private sector as managing director of Eon, a corporate communications firm.

"I think I was born with a sense of style I probably imbibed from my mom," says the native of Imus, Cavite. "I go for quality and I don't mind paying for it."

That means buying only the best pieces offered by such signature brands as Cerruti, Gucci, Paul Smith, Hermes, Ferragamo and Olivier Strelli. Although there are several top brands to choose from, Del Mundo is partial to Cerruti suits for their subdued yet elegant quality. He describes the Italian luxury brand as an "embodiment of corporate elegance."

SINGULAR STYLE

"Cerruti suits are stylish but never stiff," he says. "They fit me perfectly. It's been one of my favorite brands since God knows when."

Del Mundo's style, however, is as multifaceted as his interests. Paul Smith is able to bring out his "crazy" side, a facet reflected in one of the outfits he wore for this fashion shoot—a red cotton shirt with beige zigzag prints that's perfect for those weekend nightouts. He credits his skin tone for his ability to get away with almost every shade under the sun.

"I see the world through bright colors," says Del Mundo, whose apartment in Malate is painted in bright and contrasting "Mexican" shades. "Perhaps, it's the artistic side in me at work."

For corporate wear, however, Del Mundo sticks to basic black, gray or navy blue suits. His black-and-white Olivier Strelli jacket, for example, is a classic look inspired by the stylish Prince Edward VIII—yes, the same royal who turned his back on the British throne to marry American divorcee Wallace Simpson. Still, Del Mundo manages to put some twist to an otherwise staid jacket by choosing an eye-catching tie.

Diplomatic experience

When in doubt, however, Del Mundo reverts to his experience as a diplomat. Three questions loom in his head as he goes about selecting the ideal outfit in his closet: What's the occasion? Is there a dress code? What do his hosts expect of him? He feels he's on the right track as long as he satisfactorily answers all three.

"The diplomatic world is so regimented with protocols," he says, recalling how he dreaded wearing those "constricting" coattails during formal dinners. "Such a condition is still ingrained in me up to now."

But before somebody accuses him of being a slave to expensive European brands, Del Mundo points out one important detail: "I'm not crazy over brands. I'm just after certain brands because they work for me." Thus, he's at ease in a plain white Hanes T-shirt and a trusty pair of faded Levis jeans, as well as an ash-blue knitted shirt by Adolfo Dominquez and a laidback pair of beige Cerruti jeans.

For some reason, he finds the fit of Hugo Boss jackets too boxy. "I'm not saying they're bad," he clarifies. "In fact, I own several pairs of Hugo Boss pants. Their jackets just don't work for me."

Nor is he a certified shopaholic. Due to his killer schedule, he has precious little time to shop in Manila. Del Mundo does his shopping every time he travels abroad, making sure he buys at least one or two pieces of quality clothing. He's one person who can easily discern what looks good on him by merely looking at the clothes on display.

"I never shop on a whim," he declares. "I have a high threshold for resisting fads."

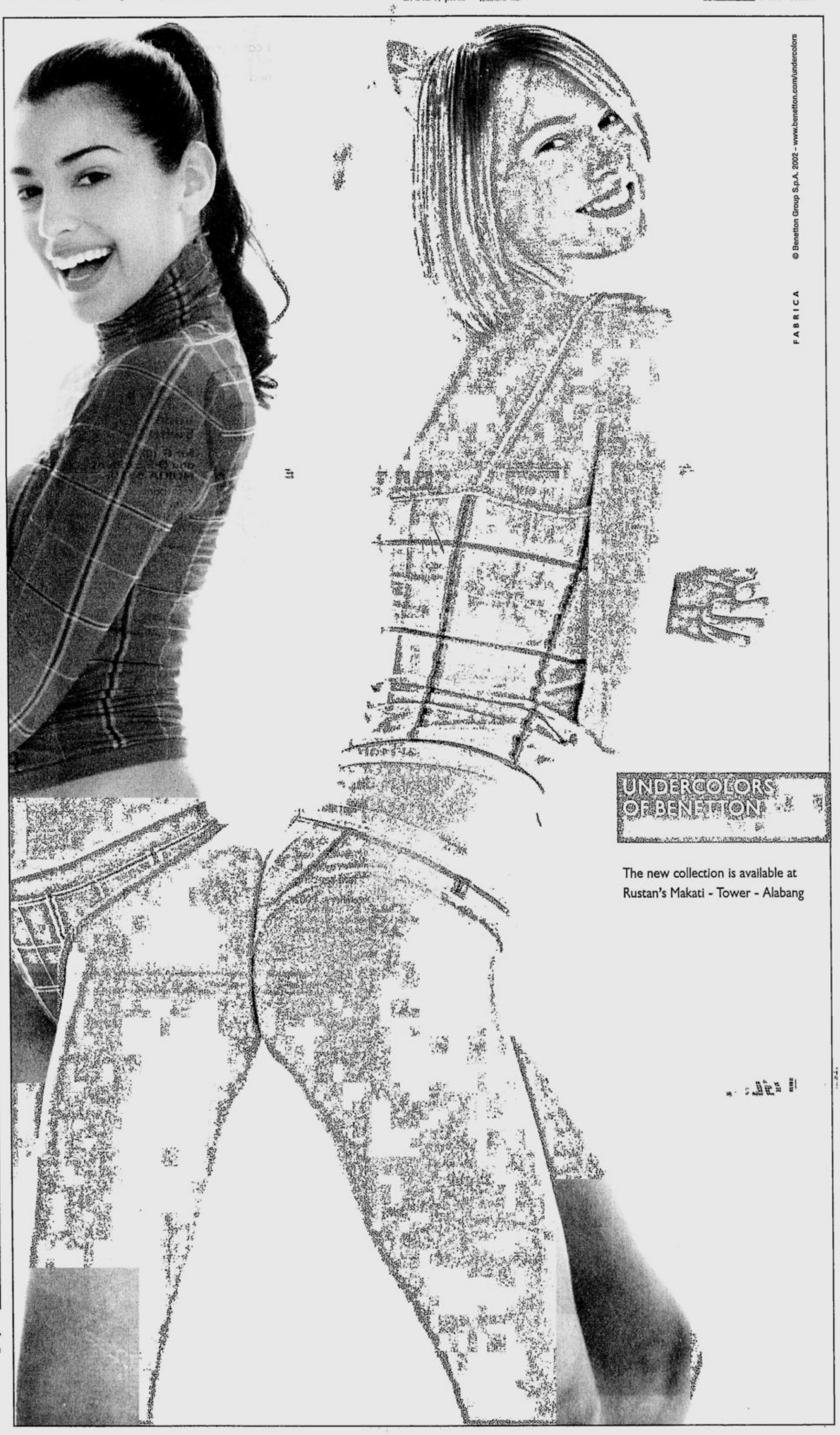
Broad horizon

Indeed, travel can broaden one's horizon as well as one's sense of style. Del Mundo has no need for GQ. Rather, he keeps himself abreast with the latest trends in men's fashion

DANDY/ p.H2

RIDING IN STYLE. Junie Del Mundo opts for a tangerine Ralph Lauren shirt, Hermes belt and a pair of Aiglee riding pants and boots as he rides Santana on the grounds of the Manila Polo Club.

WEEKEND MODE. Del Mundo—wearing an ash gray Adolfo Dominguez shirt, a pair of beige Cerruti jeans and black-and-white Gucci walking shoes—basks in Manila Bay's dying sunset at good friend Dan Lichauco's balcony in Ermita. His retro watch comes with a steel bracelet fashioned by artist Ed Castrillo.



The new collection is available at
Rustan's Makati - Tower - Alabang

EONS AWAY. The top man poses at Eon's reception area in a navy blue Cerruti suit, Ferragamo tie, Paul Smith shirt and a pair of black Prada shoes.

Dandy diplomatique

From page H1

through his trips abroad. He makes it a point to go to Paris every year, a city he considers his second home. "But whatever the prevailing trends are," he says, "I try to suit them according to my needs. I'm not afraid to buck trends if necessary."

Such sensibilities extend to Del Mundo's choice of materials. His classic Cerruti suits, for instance, are made of light wool that can be worn even in Manila's humid weather. Thus, he's able to make the most out of his expensive power clothes.

"Most of the time," he says, "I can pinpoint styles that will last." That instinct extends to his choice of shoes. Del Mundo owns several pairs of Gucci that have been with him for the past 15 years now.

Of course, looking good in fashion is one motivation for him to keep fit. In-between his trips to the gym, he goes horseback riding twice a week at the posh Manila Polo Club. His brands of choice while riding Santana include Ralph Lauren and Aiglee riding pants and boots.

Strangely enough, he wasn't always this conscious about his physique. Long hours behind a diplomat's desk eventually took its toll on Del Mundo's figure. When he returned home in 1992 after his stint in Paris, he was overweight and far from being in the pink of health.

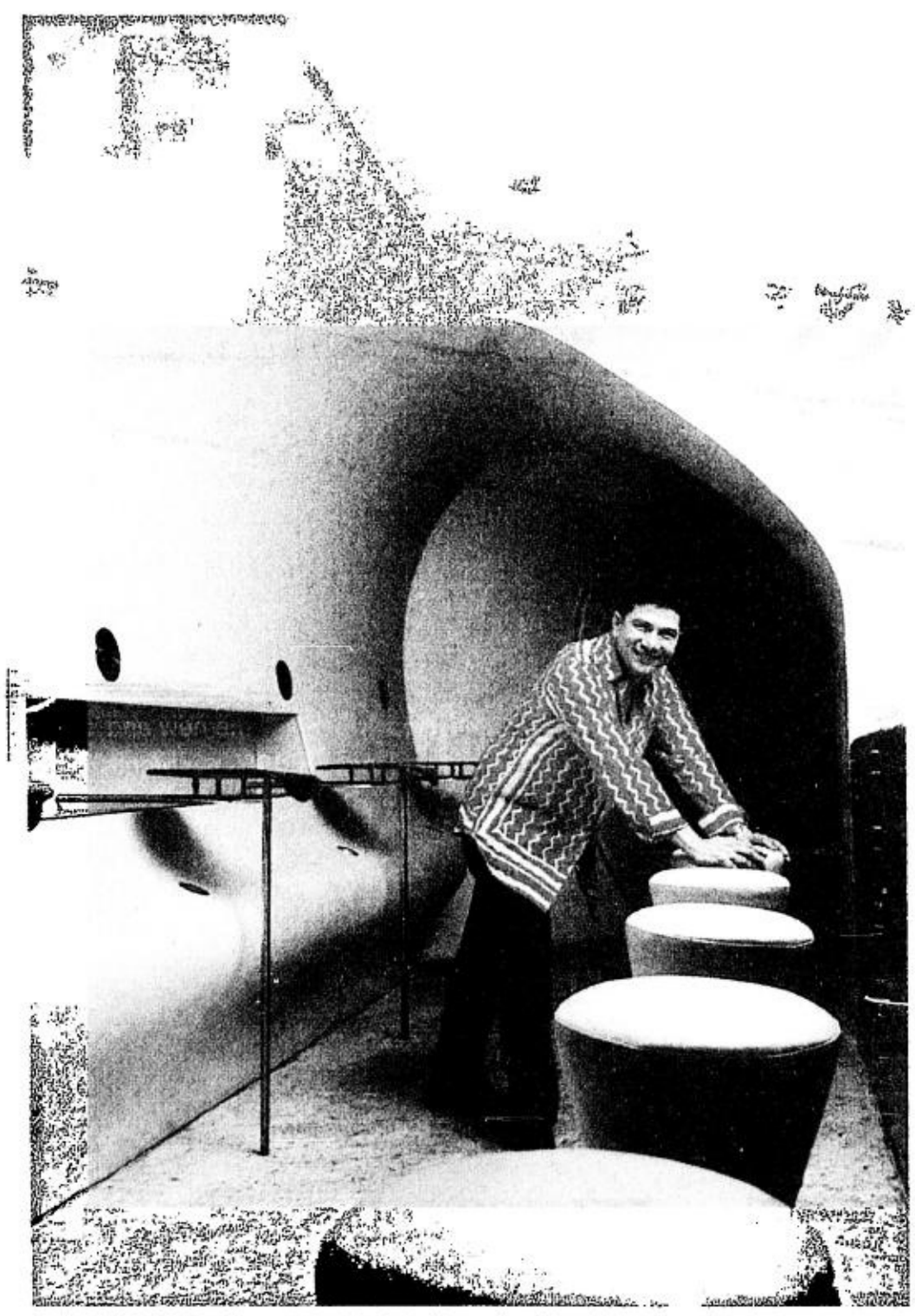
"I just woke up one day and realized how fat I had become," he shares. "Before things could get any worse, I made a determined effort to shed off all those excess pounds with the help of a doctor and personal trainer."

One of the last projects he did before eventually moving to the private sector was to help organize the APEC meet in 1996 under then President Ramos. He later became the director of the Asia-Europe Foundation for one year before establishing Eon in 1998. It has been four years now since Junie del Mundo left the diplomatic service, but the discipline and sense of propriety that go with the job are still very much evident in the man and his clothes.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

HOMEGROWN LOOK. Del Mundo enjoys the best of both worlds as he goes Filipiniana in a Silk Cocoon *barong*, a pair of black Hugo Boss pants, Gucci belt and a pair of black Fratelli Rosetti shoes in the living room of his Malate apartment.

Seven years as a Paris-based diplomat has made communications expert Junie del Mundo a fashion plate



HANGIN' LOOSE. The red Paul Smith shirt, pair of Levis jeans and suede Gucci boots bring out Del Mundo's "crazy" side as he chills at Acquario in Malate.

LOCATION
MAKATI AND MANILA

SPECIAL THANKS TO
FRANCES LIM
AND DAN LICHAUCO

PRINCE JUNIE I. Del Mundo pairs off a black-and-white Olivier Strelli jacket with black Hugo Boss pants and black Prada shoes before meeting with clients inside his newly refurbished Eon office in Makati. He puts a twist to the corporate look by wearing a printed golden yellow Gianfranco Ferre tie.

HOT Maxi and T-shirt in pearl

Men's underwear with a difference

SAMBA Hip and T-shirt in iridescent blue-green

PRINT III Maxi in gray

SINCE it was introduced in 1968, HOM has been offering men's underwear with a difference, breaking away from more traditional styles. Such innovativeness is evident in its Autumn/Winter 2002 collection, the first HOM collection locally.

HO1, HOM's best-selling range of briefs with practical horizontal fly, is available in new colors. The materials are environment-friendly and dermatologically tested. The line provides great comfort through added Lycra, soft texture, bright colors, good absorption and elimination of moisture.

Microfibers continue to be the focus of HOM design this autumn. Sleek body-hugging shapes and neat trims are the feature of trendy hipsters, minimal strings and new matching T-tops. Appearing in rich shades of burgundy, blue and green, elegant stripes and a slightly transparent reptile print, the HOM A/W '02 collection combines comfort with innovative fashion.

HOM Sports, the underwear for active sports fans, also has new colors and an all-new sports action range in dynamic styling. The broadly based seamless theme "Contact" is updated with the masculine shade Glycine. Styles in the popular microfiber line include high-fashion tops, which come in masculine reds and grays.

The collection also includes HOM's patented boxer shorts with internal support for maximum comfort. In keeping with the increasing demand for a "coordinated look" in underwear, too, almost all briefs are complemented by matching tops in the new cropped styles.

HOM is available at Loungerie, inside Wish at the Makati Shangri-La. Call 867-3852.

NEW Sensation micro and T-shirt in Glycine

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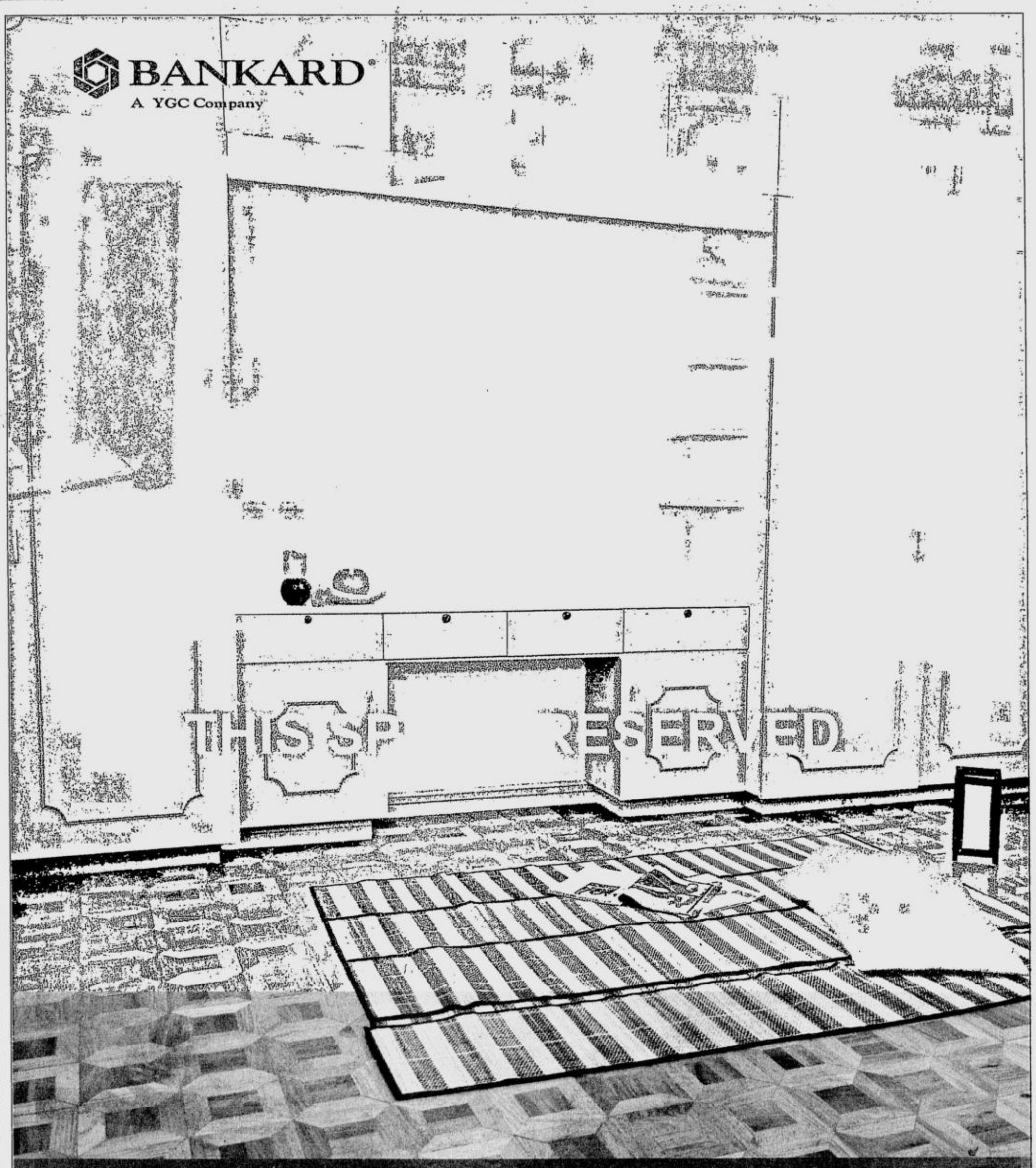

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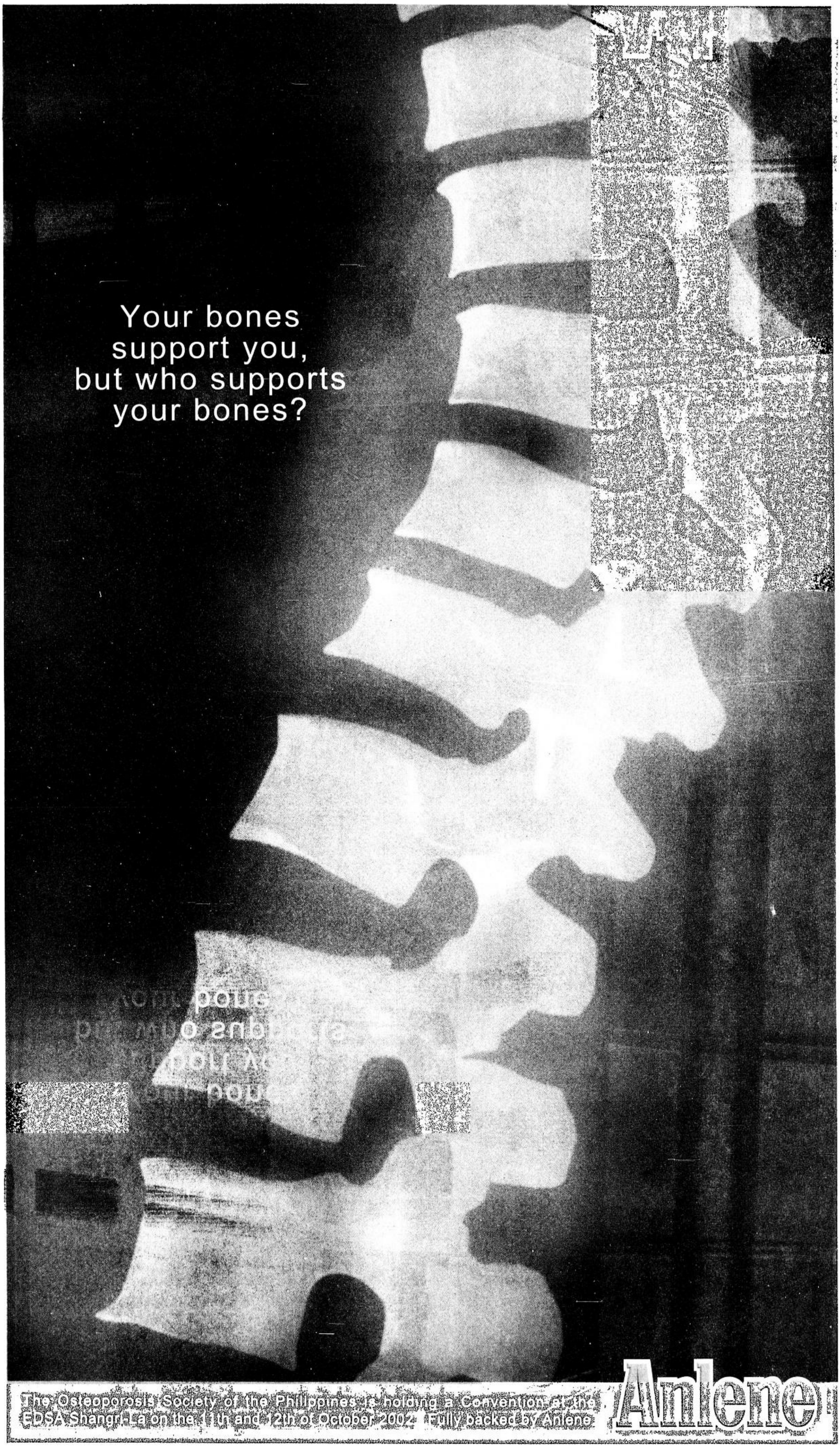
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support you,
but who supports
your bones?
The Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines is holding a Convention at the
EDSA Shangri-La on the 11th and 12th of October 2002. Fully backed by Anlene
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A CALL TO GO BEYOND OURSELVES

By Conchita L. Manabat
President, FINEX

WITH the numerous events that transpired in the year 2001 both in the local and international economic and political arena, we at FINEX thought it best to respond to the needs of the times in a selfless manner while realizing the organization's mission and vision. We believe that our theme for the year 2002 "A Call To Go Beyond Ourselves" fits to a "T."

Over the last 12 months, much focus has been placed on Finance and Accounting Practice. We are reminded of the important role we play in society and how our decisions and actions affect numerous and countless lives. More than ever, we need to reflect on how we have practiced our profession and what society's expectations are from professionals like us.

This is why we called on the membership to go beyond themselves in the practice of our profession and as members of FINEX. We need to bring back public confidence to financial reporting. There is no better way than to be responsive to the publics we serve by setting aside our personal and individual concerns but instead go beyond ourselves. We are called to make positive contribution that will benefit future generations.

We must put an end to a myopic perspective wherein only the "I" benefits. This is really a time for self-giving and self-sacrifice for the good of the majority. This is a time where our knowledge and skills may be used in helping government and business achieve their goals in boosting economic activity to achieve the much-needed economic turn-around. We are challenged to provide the business community with new models of management in order to defend or regain its position of global competitiveness. With a much global economy, disintegrating boundaries and considering the volatility in the financial markets, we must face the challenge and be at the helm of financial management.

To concretize these, we were called to be responsible leaders in globalizing the workplace through the different thrusts of the FINEX directorates. We have remained committed to the capital markets development. We have been at the forefront in shaping public opinion related to financial management issues. The different directorates through the various committees have actively responded to this call with the handful of activities they organized and carried out very well. FINEX as an institute has served as a vehicle to inform and be informed on topics not only of economic or political interest, but also on different legislative agenda that are in relation to Finance. The symposia and seminars provided the members and the public the opportunity to learn and at the same time share their expertise.

Equally important and in order to have a balance, topics on music and culture, information and communication technology, ethics, peace and order, personal development, sports and entertainment were also included as part of the FINEX topics for discussion and activities for the year. In line with the belief that the youth is our future, FINEX is again sponsoring this year's bigger and more exciting Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC). This FINEX tie up with the academe is important in building bridges between professional practice and the academe with the hope of strengthening ties to better prepare the finance professionals of tomorrow.

We congratulate and thank all the officers and members who made these activities a success. Everyone surely heeded the call to go beyond themselves!

MESSAGES

I WOULD like to extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) on the occasion of your 28th Annual Conference.

More than a year and a half after, it is heartening to note that our economy has weathered the external shocks brought about by the overall slowdown of the world economy and the terrorist attacks on the United States. Thanks to your active participation and inputs, we were able to put in place policies appropriate to the needs of a globalizing world of the 21st century.

As we look forward to the years ahead, we shall continue to pursue reforms and initiatives to strengthen the financial sector so that it may effectively support the requirements of our developing economy. I am counting on FINEX to remain as an active stakeholder in these efforts especially in the advancement of modern business practice, business ethics and social involvement.

More power to all of you and may you have a fruitful conference!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

TO THE MEMBERS and officers of FINEX, congratulations on your 28th Annual Conference.

Our country is now slowly recovering from the many difficulties of our past. I enjoin all of you in celebrating this upturn by continuing to do more than your share in creating and keeping jobs, contributing to the country's revenues, and championing good corporate governance.

I laud your efforts in going beyond yourselves in pulling the country all the way to full recovery.

Mabuhay to you all for 28 years of the triumph of the Filipino Financial Executive!

Jose Isidro N. Camacho
Secretary
Department of Finance

I EXTEND my warmest greetings and felicitations to all the members and organizers of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) on the celebration of its 28th Annual Conference on October 11, 2002.

During the last two decades of this century, public administration has been pursued with much more less success in many countries including ours, than ever before. Highly deficitary public budgets became a major concern and a factor behind some short-lived government services on different aspects. Financial resources then are crucial behind the continuing progress of a nation, behind prolonged and effective basic services. It is then undeniable that the monetary aspect plays one of the most crucial roles in building a booming nation. Needless to say, it is important especially for local government units such as ours, to learn how to systematically manage this particular resource in order to come up with more effective and successful delivery of public services.

It is for this reason that I extend my gratitude to the people behind FINEX for their ceaseless dedication to promote more effective methods and standards in financial management and at the same time encouraging professional growth and advancement with integrity, dignity and high degree of professionalism.

Once again, congratulations and Mabuhay!

BENJAMIN C. ABALOS JR.
Mayor, Mandaluyong City

OUR THEME for this year, "A Call to Go Beyond Ourselves" is truly demonstrated in the FINEX activities for the year and highlighted in the FINEX week program. Indeed, the officers, directors, committee chairpersons and members heeded the call to be selfless and giving as they lead and serve the membership and the public.

This Annual Conference culminates the year's activities that were all geared towards achieving our mission of becoming the Finance Executive whose knowledge and skills are key factors in the financial management of our respective organizations. Throughout the year we have provided a forum for our advancement in the field of modern business practice with a high regard for business ethics and social involvement. To provide a balance, we have equally addressed concerns for personal development, culture, arts, tourism, peace and order, and sports.

FINEX welcomes her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as she keynotes our FINEX Conference. In this year's Conference, we are privileged to have distinguished guests and speakers on very interesting topics for our technical sessions. We thank Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho for sharing his time and expertise as he speaks on "Jumpstarting the Capital Markets." And our deep appreciation for Former Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata for speaking on "Responsible Financial Reporting." We also thank Ms Victoria P. Garchitorena of Ayala Foundation for expounding on "Sustainable Social Involvement."

In behalf of FINEX, we welcome all the participants to this year's Annual Conference. To all the officers, members, sponsors and donors who made the FINEX Week and the FINEX Conference a success, thank you!

CONCHITA L. MANABAT
President, FINEX

MY WARM felicitations and greetings of PEACE and LOVE.

The ever hardworking members of the FINEX Committee would like to welcome you all to participate in the 28th Annual Conference in Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City. Our celebration this year will be inspired by the theme "A Call to Go Beyond Ourselves."

Our theme is so relevant to the critical times that our country and our countrymen are constantly facing but this should not dampen our spirits to reach out, help build a robust economy, and to help restore peace and order. We would like to see faith flourishing, hope renewed, charity expanding, and holiness spreading amongst us. By going beyond ourselves in everything that we do, we could succeed over what seems to be insurmountable, for we believe in our capabilities to make a difference in the lives of our marginalized society.

The FINEX Committee has lined up significant and exciting programs that would answer to the call of our theme: Debt and Equity Financing for Small and Medium Enterprises, Projects for the Handicapped and Marillac Hills Children, Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition, Economic Briefing, Ethics Seminar, Product Exhibits, Sports Events, and Fellowship Socials and will enrich participating FINEX members.

Unlike in the past when we have a panel of interrogators to ask our speakers, our technical sessions will have a reactor from FINEX on what our organization is currently doing in areas of capital market, responsible financial reporting, professional conduct in the workplace, and sustainable social involvement.

For the first time in FINEX, the weeklong celebration will be covered comprehensively by ABS-CBN Business Group to promote public awareness and wider participation in the events. We invite you to watch a 45-minute TV special on October 18, 2002 from 8 to 8:45 p.m. Channel 2 to a special called "FINEX: Going Beyond Ourselves."

I salute the members of the Committee for their industry and zeal in putting up together all these programs and activities. May the good Lord reward your generous work.

MABUHAY ANG FINEX...MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!

ESTHER P. MAGLEO
Chairperson
FINEX Week Committee

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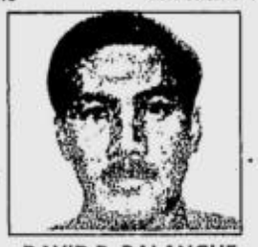

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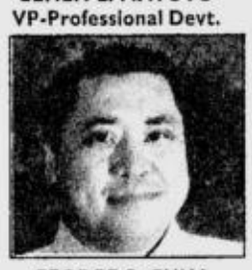

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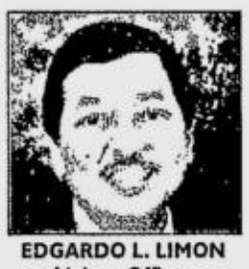

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LYDIA N. ORIAL
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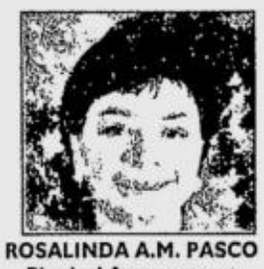
CARMEN V.F. SERINA
Asst. Technical Sessions



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FRANKLIN F. YSAAC
Exhibit

REU M. DELLOTA
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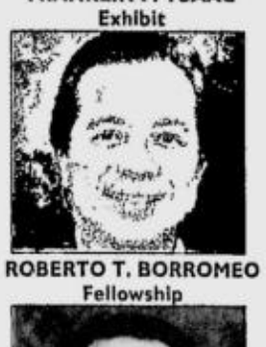

ROBERTO T. BORROMEO
Fellowship

GEMA O. CHENG
FINEX Exhibit

LAMBERTO P. SCARELLA
SME

JAIME E. YSMAEL
Economic Briefing

SALVACION C. MONTEIRO
Ethics

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GUILBERT P. AQUITANIA
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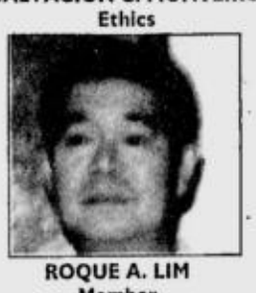
RUPERT L. SUAREZ
Elections

GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING
Social Involvement



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Over 3 decades of nation-building

By Joel V. Nigos

THEY hold a position of trust and confidence. Always at the forefront of financial leadership, they are distinguished not only for their professional expertise but also for their commitment. They always keep themselves knowledgeable, anticipating fearless forecasts, always at their pulse the likely behavior of the economic indicators. They always have a ready analysis of what's happening in the country and in the global scale. They are the financial executives.

More than three decades ago, they formed themselves as the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex). Today, Finex has become an influential part of the country's business community as it counts among its members the elite from the ranks of the financial executives.

Its decisions and actions largely affect the society. One aspect in which it is playing its vital role is in building bridges between the professional practice and the academe. This way, it is hoped that the finance professionals are better prepared for the corporate world. It has espoused a lot and had achieved a great deal in the areas of education and research, capital markets development and social involvement.

Notable achievements

The organization considers having more than 700 members to date as one of its inspiring achievements. This membership counts chief finance officers (CFOs) of the country's top 1000 corporations making it a force to reckon with as far as a group of finance executives are concerned.

As a testament to the triumphs of its members especially with regard to corporate ethics, Finex has published the coffeetable book "Paragons" which profiles CEOs of companies who are espousing ethical practices in corporate governance. Written by Alfred Yuson, the book won an Anvil Book Award for Excellence last year.

"We have also established nationwide affiliates in Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Subic-Olongapo, Negros Occidental and Cagayan de Oro. That's very important for us because what we're doing here in Manila are being replicated in other parts of the country," stresses Conchita L. Manabat, Finex president.

And it is not only an organization for its members. Through the years, it has promoted programs which benefits a diverse group of people.

"We are preparing the executives of tomorrow. We have a committee called the Junior Finex which comes up with projects all-year round," says Edgardo L. Limon, Finex executive vice president.

Junior Finex sponsored the recently concluded Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC) nationwide won by De La Salle University.

In addition, Finex, in joint venture with the UP College of Business Administration, has put up the Development Center for Finance. The Center is dedicated for the upliftment of the finance profession through research. It has churned out award-winning books on stock market investment management, corporate finance, and comptrollership with management and accounting concepts.

"We also have a partnership with the Philippine Association of Collegiate Schools in Business (PACSB), the association of all deans of business schools nationwide," says Manabat.

Also in joint venture with Finex, they have raised funds (now amounting to P1 million), which composed the Finex-PACSB Fund. It's now being used to train faculty and upgrade research. Five training modules were developed already.

"We have also sponsored a number of symposia and seminars. These activities were both for members and the public," Manabat says. Discussed during the seminars were the "Proposed Recovery Act" as they were also symposia on good governance and family-owned companies.

And it is very active in the capital markets development.

"We provide our inputs on major legislations like securitization. Now, we are very active in the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) and are championing the Revised Investment Company Act (Rica), we're actively participating in the discussions with the PSE, SEC, the Insurance Commission and the BSP," says Limon.

He adds that Finex is doing this "so that our legislators are reminded that laws should be able to aid the development of the country's economy and provide the framework for a good capital. It should also provide an investor-friendly environment for both foreign and local businessmen."

"At one time on this capital market development initiative, Finex is the private sector component while SEC is the public sector component. USAid gave a grant which paved the way for the creation of the Philippine Central Depository, the only depository in the country which is instrumental in scriptless trading. We sat in the Board of the PCD. The chair is rotated between the PSE and BAP, but we co-chair the Capital Markets Development Council with the secretary of finance. Institutions represented there would be BSP, SEC, IHAP, BAP, PSE, and the Insurance Commission," relates Manabat.

It has also been promoting entrepreneurship.

"In fact, we have set up a foundation to develop Filipino entrepreneurs—the Foundation for Filipino Entrepreneurship Inc. You know, we can accomplish a lot along that area, especially in developing a lot of entrepreneurs. That would create more jobs and new businesses with a multiplier effect," Manabat says.

And just like any responsible corporate citizen, Finex has its own share of outreach projects. Foremost of which is the Don Bosco Streetchildren Project for boys and the Marillac Hills Project for less fortunate girls. Special funds are also set aside for disaster relief.

Challenges ahead

Manabat admits that Finex is up for challenges in the years ahead. She says that being a microcosm of the Philippine industry, the organization is affected by happenings in the country and in the world. She also adds that although Finex would have a change in focus to cope with the business environment, its very anchor would be the same.

"I think we will always be anchored on the very reason why this organization is created—to further develop the finance function, professionalize it, enhance it, doing its share in nation-building and making the country really open for globalization," Manabat concludes.

The fine finance secretary

By Mignon Ramos

THE SECRETARY actually has this gleam in his eye when he says that, of course, there *is* hope for this country, or all of this wouldn't be worth anything. That is his prognosis for our country and for our economy.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is everything friendly sources say he is, and, from that gleam in the eye and the passion in his words when he talks about his family, or when he coolly discusses the country's economic situation. He is the favorite speaker, bar none, at the General Membership Meetings of the Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines. In the short time he has been in office, he has already spoken at the monthly luncheons thrice. And he will again address the membership at the Finex Week National Conference on Oct. 11, 2002 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

First things first. Ladies, may I sincerely confirm that he is the Cabinet hunk. He is neat, nattily dressed, and a very trim tall man (He's 6'1"). But gentlemen, may I also assure you that he spent none of the interview time fixing any part of his clothing or, horrors, preening.

Secretary Camacho talks easily about his work, about the economy. And one realizes that he is not merely knowledgeable, he is actually comfortable moving all of these facts around in his considerable mind and picking up any relevant ones for meetings, discussions and interviews. More than that, the ease is accompanied by a canny sharpness. He takes the facts, he takes the questions, then goes one step further.

He talks about the deficit and its necessary adjunct, revenues, and quite simply, goes on to challenge the Financial Executive to pay the proper taxes. The only way out of any deficit is, certainly, improving revenues. And the Secretary looks to the most decent of executives to find it in himself to take pride in paying taxes and look to himself for the reasons for the deficit. His voice takes on a very slight edge when he talks about the improvements in the state of the economy then goes on to ask why the Financial Executive insists on despairing about the economic situation. He wonders where the cynicism comes from. He looks at the situation in the country and the Filipino and actually goes on to wonder if some mandatory military service might spur some feeling of nationalism, provide some connection between what the Filipino individual does and what the government is and what it does; he wonders at what anyone can do to make the government part of the Filipino psyche, and the Filipino truly feel part of the government. The insights just go the step further than the situation and actually take it into the philosophical.

He is even-tempered, which is rather daunting when he explains that he doesn't get angry, because anger doesn't solve anything. Then he goes on to say that when something could really threaten that temper, he steps back and just regroups, for the opportunity to get back and try and solve things rationally. A civilized version of "Don't get mad, get even," that the average financial executive would do well to keep in mind.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1577, Series of 2002

2002 ECONOMIC BRIEFING

'Business Outlook for 2003—Drivers and Levers'

FINANCE executives belonging to the country's top corporations came, saw and attended the 2002 Economic Briefing "Business Outlook for 2003—Drivers and Levers" held on Oct. 7 at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The multi-sectoral briefing, sponsored by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) had invited speakers, known experts in their field, who assessed the key "drivers and levers" of Philippine economic performance for 2003, as viewed from four different perspectives—global, regional, public sector and private sector perspective. These views served as inputs to a company's strategic planning and budgeting process for 2003.

The annual briefing was held in response to the increasing uncertainty facing companies nowadays where planning has become a very difficult and complex process. Aside from analyzing the internal business environment, a finance executive cannot ignore the interplay of various external forces that influence, in a major way, the success or failure of a particular business. This is especially true in today's economic setting in the Philippines, where local and global developments make a difference, and where change is given.

Nicholas Bibby, director for Asian economics, UBS Warburg Asia Ltd. spoke on "The World View for 2003 and Its Implications on the Philippines."

Hilarion M. Henares Jr., on the other hand, presidential consultant on national affairs and former chair of the National Economic Council talked on "The Philippine Political and Social Environment for 2003."

The director general of the National Economic Development Authority, Dante Canlas, was also there to speak on "The Philippine Economic Environment for 2003, as Viewed from the Public Sector Side," while Romeo L. Bernardo, president and managing director of Lazaro, Bernardo Tiu & Associates presented "The Philippine Business Environment for 2003, Private Sector Perspective."

The Economic Briefing is part of Finex Week. It is usually held in October because it is the time when companies are finalizing their budgets and also when finance executives would find out the likely behavior of economic indicators, what the GNP, GDP, interest rates, foreign exchange, inflation, would be from various perspectives. ***Joel V. Nigos***

HILARION M. Henares Jr., (left) presidential consultant on national affairs, ponders on a question from the floor. Henares spoke on 'The Philippine Political and Social Environment for 2003.' At right is Romeo L. Bernardo, president and managing director of Lazaro, Bernardo Tiu & Associates who talked about 'Philippine Business Environment for 2003, Private Sector Perspective.'

'THE WORLD View for 2003 and Its Implications on the Philippines' in the words of Nicholas Bibby, director for Asian economics, UBS Warburg Asia Ltd.

DIRECTOR General Dante B. Canlas of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) delivers his piece on 'The Philippine Economic Environment for 2003, as Viewed from the Public Sector Side.'

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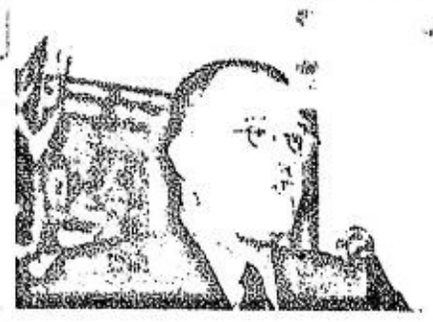

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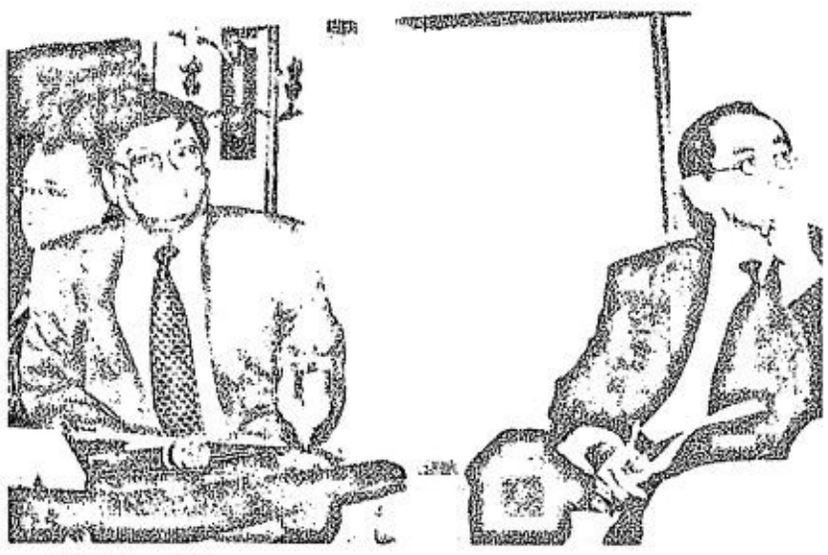

DIRECTOR General Dante B. Canlas of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) delivers his piece on 'The Philippine Economic Environment for 2003, as Viewed from the Public Sector Side.'

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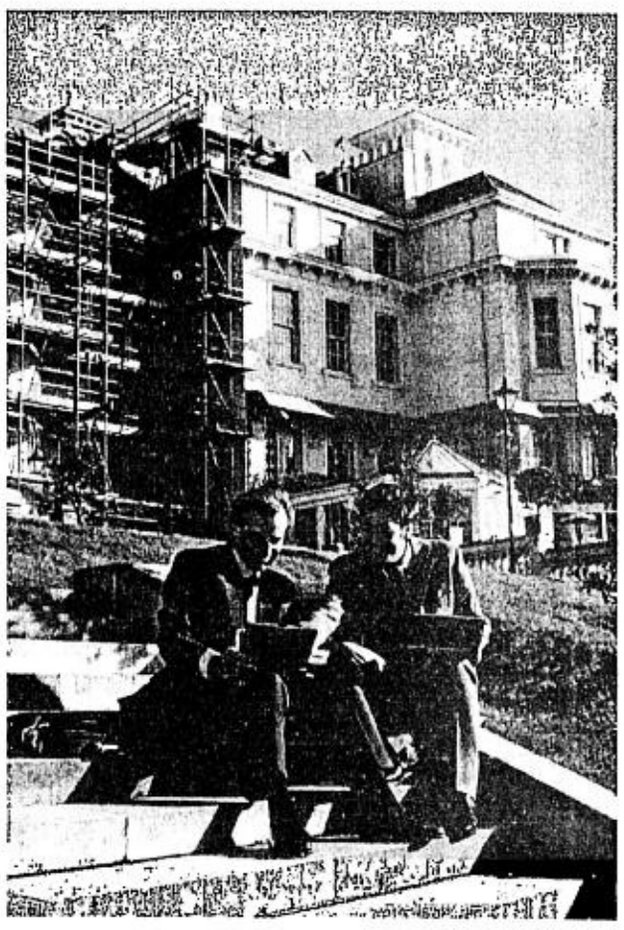

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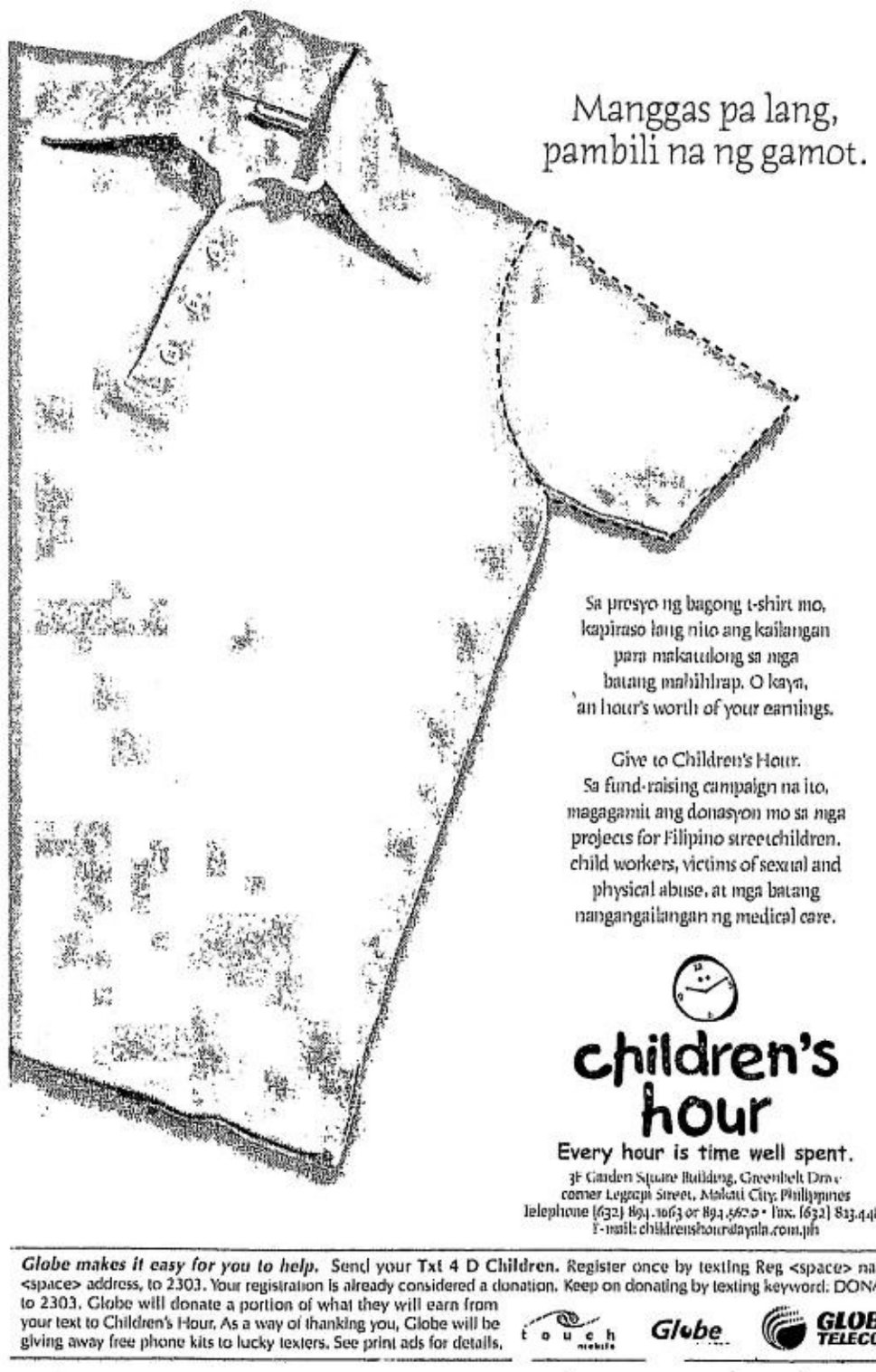
MEMBERS of the 2002 Finex officers and directors pose with the president, Conchita L. Manabat. Seated from left: Grace P. Tiongco, VP-internal affairs; Fortunato B. Cruz, VP-external affairs; Luis C. Liwanag II, director; Edgardo L. Limon, executive vice president; David L. Balangue, VP-capital markets development; and Cynthia V. Subijano, director. Standing from left: Senen L. Magtoto, VP-professional development, Jaime Y. Ladao, director; Ronnie B. Alcantara, treasurer; George S. Chua, director; Jose A. Osana, director; and Benito G. Soliven III, corporate secretary.

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

FINEX Week Committee members in one of their meetings. Seated from left: Franklin Ysaac, Lamberto P. Scarella, Conchita L. Manabat, Esther P. Magleo, Lydia N. Orial, and Rosanna R. Quito. Standing from left: Reu Fred M. Dellota, Jaime E. Ysmael, Gema O. Cheng, Emma A. Señorin, Roberto T. Borromeo, Albert A. Gamboa, Adoracion A. Cabrera, and Edgardo L. Limon.

BAYANI 'BF' Fernando (center), Chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), addresses the 2002 Finex Annual Membership Meeting held Oct. 9 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. He is joined by (from left) Ed Limon, Finex EVP, Santi Dumlao, past president of Finex, Esther Magleo, Finex Week chair, Chit Manabat, Finex president, Bing Pasco, Elsie Chua and Quintin 'QT' Tan.

MMDA Chair Fernando converses with Asian Institute of Management (AIM) president and former Finance Secretary Bobby de Ocampo.



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DLSU tops 2002 finance tilt

By Guilbert P. Aquitania

THE DE LA SALLE University is this year's best collegiate finance team.

Scoring 540 out of a maximum 800 points, DLSU bested 14 other schools, which had also qualified for the Grand National Finals of the 2002 Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC). The event was held at the Stargazer of the Grand Boulevard Hotel along Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The DLSU team was composed of Adrianne Zalamea, Robert John Abada, Carlo Licuanan, Jose Juan Diego Carballo, and Maria Cecilia Sicangco, as team members; Management of Financial Institutions Chair Leila Calderon, Professors Arnel Uy and Rene Hapitan; and Dean Michael Alba, PhD., of the College of Business and Economics.

In winning this year's competition, the DLSU contingent bagged the ICFC championship trophy, a cash prize of P30,000, individual medals, IT scholarships worth P22,500 per team member donated by NIIT (an affiliate of PLDT), and various gifts.

First runner-up honors went to the University of the Philippines, which followed DLSU closely with 520 points and which had won the competition in 1999 and 2000. UP was on the verge of being the first school to bag top honors for three years. Had UP won again this year, it would have earned for itself a permanent replica of the ICFC Roving Trophy donated by C.L. Manabat and Company/ De Loitte Touche & Tohmatsu. This year, UP earned for itself a cash prize of P20,000 and the first runner-up trophy.

Garnering a total of 460 points, Ateneo de Manila University, which had topped the ICFC in 2001, came in second runner-up this time and snatched the second runner-up trophy and a cash prize of P10,000. Perennial finalist University of Santo Tomas came in as third runner-up with a total of 400 points and earned a cash prize of P5,000.

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

ED Limon, Finex executive vice president and Grace Tiongco, Finex vice president-internal affairs present the plaque of appreciation to the 2002 ICFC Grand National Finals champion De La Salle University (DLSU). Receiving the award are (from left), Arnel Uy, coach, Carlo Licuanan, Robert John Abada, Maria Cecilia Sicangco, Jose Juan Diego Carballo, Adrianne Zalamea and Leila Calderon, MFI chair, DLSU.

Keynote speaker during the awards ceremonies was Finex executive vice president Edgardo Limon. Former Finance Secretary Roberto F. de Ocampo, AIM president, was the event's guest speaker and was introduced by Grace P. Tiongco, Finex vice president for internal affairs and JFinex liaison director. The event was covered by the ABS-CBN News Channel. Emcee for the awards ceremonies was Guilbert P. Aquitania, JFinex Chair.

Major sponsors of this year's ICFC are Air Philippines, Philippine Airlines, Mindstream and Infocom. Benefactors were Intex Telecom Systems, Pagcor, Prudential Life Plans, Club Manila East, David Balangue, Equitable PCIBank, Export and Industry Bank, Fortune Tobacco and Mod.Net Infrastructure.

The fine . . .

from page 12

Secretary Camacho is generally and amazingly acknowledged to be what is surely an oxymoron—the Cabinet member that is a family man. He spends what time he could with his family of one wife and six children. Evenings after a long day at work, he goes in search of his kids to talk about their different days. On free weekends, he goes off to his farm with all of them in tow. And surprise, he attends PTA meetings. The good father talks about balance not only in terms of time, as would be typical. He goes beyond that allocation of time to look for a real balance. Very consciously, very deliberately, he pays attention to the needs of his family, his children, balancing these with the requirements of his job, especially this job.

He tells us that his spirituality, God is the envelope holding everything together for him. His relationship with God, he says, is the one that envelopes everything. Prays when he's in the car, in church. What does he pray for? He prays for guidance. To do the right thing, as a husband, a father, and again, to do the right thing on the job.

And it is a job. Very challenging, very exciting, very fulfilling, but still really a job. And therein lies the difference. The job is not a way of life to him, not something he would cling to nor make more of than just work. There is, of course, the point that he truly does not need this job. He has a great life, totally separate of this job. So the focus of Secretary Camacho remains on what can be done, what needs to be done, rather than the perks of a position.

The abstract of all of it is when Secretary Lito Camacho, young, intelligent, vibrant, earnest, and the type of government official one would like to see more of in any future, is asked how he'd like history to remember him. And he smiles with some bafflement, saying, "I'm happy to not be remembered in history."

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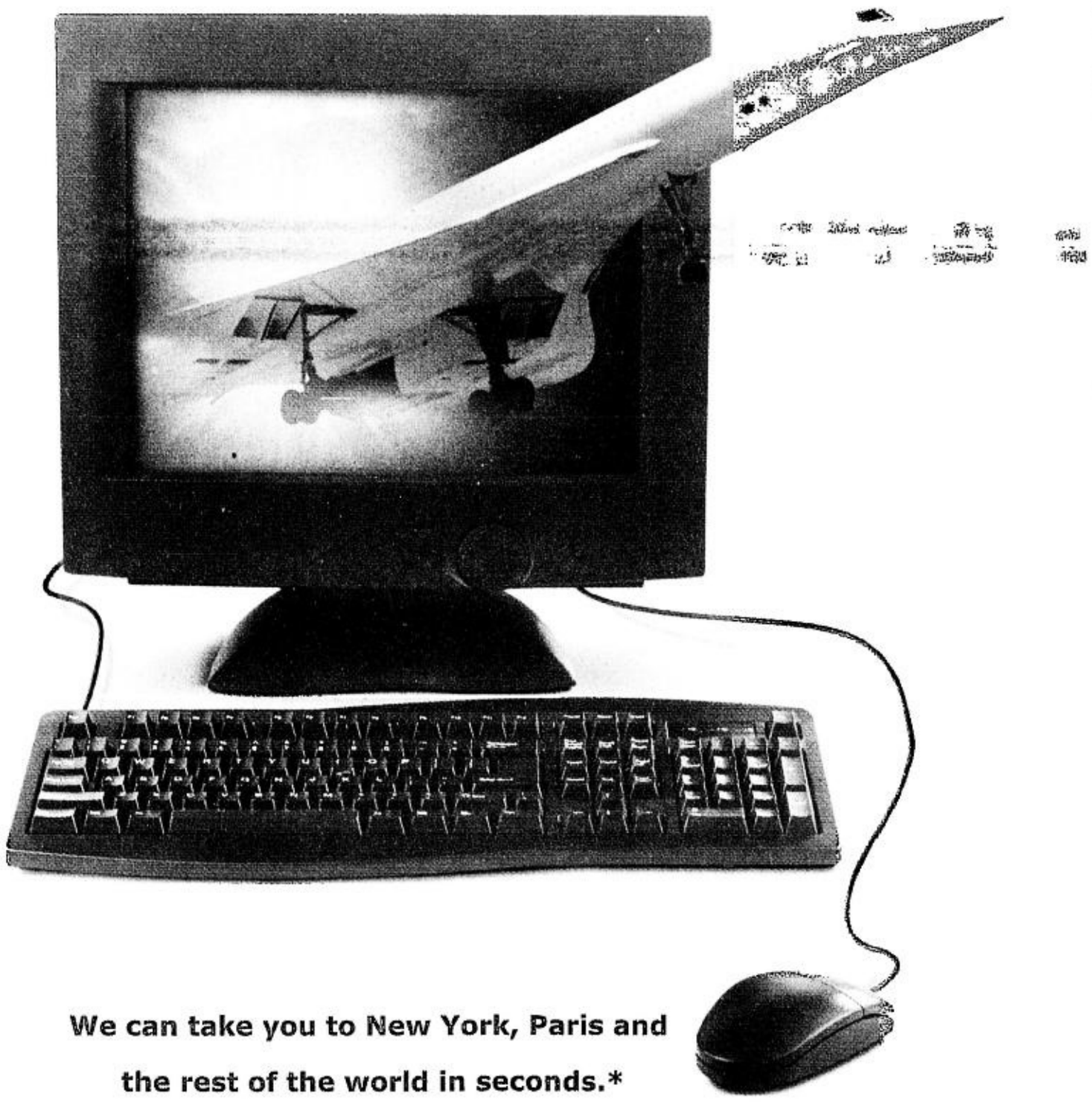

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Per OTI-NCR Permit No. 1619 series of 2002.

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'A Call to Go Beyond Ourselves'

8:00 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting
HONORABLE MAYOR BENHUR ABALOS
Mayor of Mandaluyong City
8:45 a.m. Arrival of Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho
Entry of Colors by the UP Vanguards
Invocation
MS. ESTHER P. MAGLEO
Overall Chairperson, FINEX Week Committee
National Anthem by the UP Vanguard

TECHNICAL SESSION I (8:55 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.)
8:55 a.m. Welcome Remarks & Introduction of Speaker
MR. EDGARDO L. LIMON
Executive Vice President, FINEX
President, Intex Telecom Systems, Inc.
9:00 a.m. Address
"Jumpstarting the Capital Market"
HONORABLE SECRETARY JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary, Department of Finance
9:20 a.m. Reactor
MR. EDWIN B.VILLANUEVA
Chairman, VFL Advisors, Inc.
9:45 a.m. Rapporteur
MR. ANTONIO C. MONCUPA, JR.
EVP & Treasurer, International Exchange Bank
9:55 a.m. Awarding of Token of Appreciation and Closing Remarks
MR. RONNIE B. ALCANTARA
Treasurer, FINEX
Senior Vice President, Insular Investment & Trust Corp.

KEYNOTE
10:00 a.m. EDUARDO A. GANA
Chairman, FINEX Capital Markets Dev't. Committee
Director-Direct Investment, AIG Investments Corp. (Asia) Ltd.
Session Chairman
10:05 a.m. ADDRESS
Opening Remarks
MS.CONCHITA L. MANABAT
President, FINEX
10:10 a.m. Introduction of Keynote Speaker
HONORABLE JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary, Department of Finance
10:55 a.m. Keynote Address
HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines
Awarding of Token of Appreciation
to Keynote Speaker
MS. CONCHITA L. MANABAT
President, FINEX
Peter N. Tan
Senior Vice President, Hambrecht & Quist Phils., Inc.
Master of Ceremonies

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Exhibit Tour
Presentors' Time
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Unioil
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Mod.net

Lunch (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Entertainment by: Ms.Roanne Orial

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon Presentor's Time
Systems Union Software Pte. Ltd.

LUNCHEON SESSION (12:30 P.M. - 2:20 P.M.)
Topic "Professional Conduct in the Workplace"
Role playing will be presented to dramatize a situation where company executives are faced with an ethical dilemna in the workplace.
Actors: Louie Liwanag, as the President; Tony Boy Ongsiako as the Consultant; Bobby Borromeo as the CFO
12:30 p.m. Brief Introduction
Ms. Rosanna R. Quito
Session Chairperson
12:35 p.m. Skit
12:50 p.m. Opening Remarks & Introduction of Interviewer & Interviewees
MR. BENITO G. SOLIVEN III
Corporate Secretary, FINEX
Managing Director, BV Partners, Inc.
12:55p.m. Panel Discussion
Interviewer
MS. CECILIA O. DRILON
Director
ABS-CBN Business News Agency
Interviewees
Gov't. Sector
HON. ANTONIO M. BERNARDO
Commissioner, Bureau of Customs

HON. VICENTE S. PEREZ, JR.
Secretary, Dep't. of Energy
Intervierwees
Private Sector
MS. EMILY A. ABRERA
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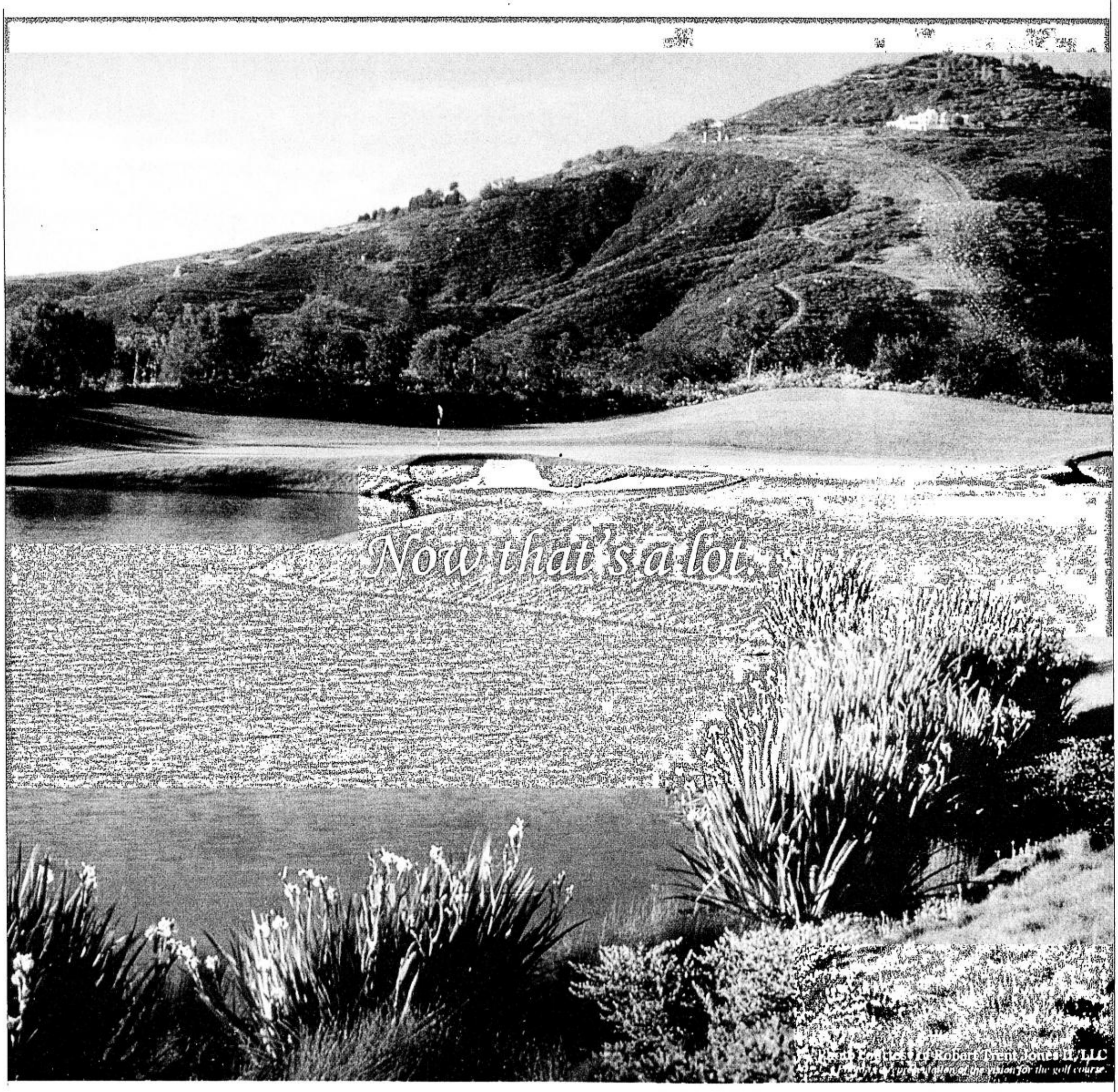

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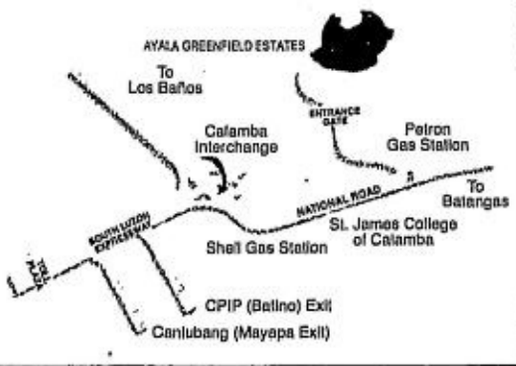

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'A Call to Go Beyond Ourselves'

MR. RAMON Y. DIMACALI
President
Management Association of the Philippines

1:45 p.m. Awarding of Tokens of Appreciation and Closing Remarks
MR. SENEN L. MATOTO
Director, FINEX
Chairman and President, BPI Securities Corporation

Presentors' Time
1:50 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. Intex Telecom Systems
2:05 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Monsanto

TECHNICAL SESSION II (2:20 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.)
2:20 p.m. Opening Remarks & Introduction of Speaker
MS. GRACE P. TIONGCO
VP-Internal Affairs, FINEX
President, First Credit Consultants Corporation
2:25 p.m. Address
"Responsible Financial Reporting"
MR. CESAR E. A. VIRATA
Director, Corporate Vice Chairman and Acting CEO
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation
2:55 p.m. Reactor
MS. HELENA AGNES S. VALDERRAMA
Chair, Department of Accounting and Finance
UP College of Business Adminstration
3:05 p.m. Rapporteur
MS. CORNELIA C. DAGDAG
President & CEO
Philippine Central Depository, Inc.
3:15 p.m. Awarding of Token of Appreciation and Closing Remarks
MR. GEORGE S. CHUA
Director, FINEX
President & COO, Trust International Paper Corporation
ROSALINDA A.M. PASCO
President, PMJB Enterprises, Inc.
Session Chairperson
3:20 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. Exhibit Tour
Presentors' Time
3:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. Union Bank of the Philippines
3:50p.m. - 4:05 p.m. Performance Advantage Systems Int'l.

TECHNICAL SESSION III (4:05 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.)
4:05 p.m. Opening Remarks & Introduction of Speaker
MS. NORIE C. BORDADOR
Director, FINEX
CFO, ACNielsen (Phils.(Inc.)
4:10 p.m. Address
"Sustainable Social Involvement"
MS. VICTORIA P. GARCHITORENA
President, Ayala Foundation
4:40 p.m. Reactor
MR. ALEJANDRO R. YAGUE, JR.
President, Philtranco Service Enterprises, Inc.
4:55 p.m. Rapporteur
MR. RICARDO G. LAZATIN
EVP & Group Head, Credit Mgmt. Group, RCBC
5:05 p.m. Awarding of Token of Appreciation and Closing Remarks
MR. JOSE A. OSANA
Director, FINEX
Partner, Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co.
MR. ED LIMTINGCO
President, FINEX-Affiliates Cebu
Vismin Manager, CIBI Information, Inc.
Session Chairman
5:10 p.m. Recap/Closing Remarks & Acknowledgment
MS. LYDIA N. ORIAL
Chairperson, FINEX Week Sub-Committee on Technical Sessions
Senior Vice President, LGU Guarantee Corp.
5:15 p.m. Thanksgiving Mass
Fr. Walter F. Ysaac, S.J.
Spiritual Songs by: MS. KARYLLE

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**Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1021, Series of 2002

*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3134, Series of 2002

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